Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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10 tons of shark meat released to vessel owner. PAGE 2

Alleged Tanapag 'ice' trafficking group falls. PAGE 3

Survey: CHC plagued with mismanagement, poor billing

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Mismanagement, doctor shortage, inadequate procurement practices, and poor records and billing systems at the Commonwealth Health Center are among the issues identified in a patient survey and employee evaluation done by the House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare.

"The survey results indicate that CHC needs to overhaul its operation and approach to delivering quality health care," committee chair Rep. Ralph Torres (R-

See SURVEY on Page 4

NMI slow to spend ARRA funds

- Only 1 pct. of $27.9M ARRA funds had been spent
- Spending by four other territories is 9 to 25 percent

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The CNMI has so far spent only 1 percent or $332,000 of the $27.935 million in federal stimulus money that has already been made available, lagging behind four other U.S. territories that have so far spent 9 to 25 percent of the funds given them.

See ARRA FUNDS on Page 4

GUBERNATORIAL FORUM HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
From left, Independents Dr. David Borja and Ramon "Kumoi" Guerrero, acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos of the Covenant Party, and Independents House Floor Leader Joseph Camacho and Juan "Pan" Guerrero applaud at the conclusion of the gubernatorial forum sponsored by the CNMI Bar Association at the Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan yesterday. Only the Republican tandem of Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider and his running mate House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios was not present, while Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who was represented by Inos, is currently off island.
See story on Page 7.

Yumul

Millions cut in lieu of austerity measures

Yumul to pre-file FY 2010 budget bill today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) will pre-file today the Fiscal Year 2010 budget bill capping the budgetary resources at $150.5 million and reflects, among other things, millions in budget cuts for the three branches of government in lieu of austerity measures and the creation of a special account to meet Retirement Fund obligations.

See MILLIONS on Page 4

NMI has 65 new swine flu cases

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Brostrom

The CNMI now has a total of 71 confirmed cases of H1N1 influenza after the Department of Public Health received Tuesday the latest results of samples sent to San Antonio, Texas.

Commonwealth Health Center Medical Director Dr. Richard Brostrom and acting Deputy Secretary for Public Health Administration John Tagabuel disclosed yesterday that the

See SWINE FLU on Page 4

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you use a seat belt when driving?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of September 17, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Historic First
For the first time ever, a representative of the CNMI presided over the US House as Speaker Pro Tempore.

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GMA's Bet
The party of Philippine president Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has chosen the defense secretary as its candidate in next year's election.

ASIA...Page 22

LIFE'S SHORT TYPE FAST

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Local

10 tons of shark meat are released to vessel owner

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An estimated 10 tons of sharks found in the holding area of a Taiwanese fishing vessel that was caught illegally fishing in CNMI waters were returned to the boat owner as part of the case's settlement.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk Schuler told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that, according to the consent decree, the owner of the Taiwanese longline fishing vessel *Te Hung Fa* will ship the catch back to Taiwan.

"It was frozen. While the catch was here on Saipan, it was on the boat and the generators were running. It was kept frozen so that it would not spoil or lose any value it may have," Schuler said.

The vessel was suspected of shark finning but the prosecutor said it is hard to determine whether the sharks' fins had been taken out.

"You can't look at it unless you de-freeze. And if you de-freeze it then you would spoil all of the fish," he said.

As far as the U.S. government was concerned, Schuler said, the boat was ready to leave Saipan at 8am yesterday morning.

Te Hung Fa was recently seized and escorted to the Saipan port for illegally fishing within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone surrounding the Northern Marianas Islands.

Wen-Te Lee, owner of the boat that operates out of Dunggang, Taiwan, settled the forfeiture complaint filed by the U.S. government for $500,000.

The owner paid $200,000 to the U.S. government on Tuesday.

Under the consent decree entered by the boat owner and the U.S. government, the remaining $300,000 will be paid after three years from the date of the signing of the consent decree.

At the end of three years, if the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration determines that the vessel has successfully met all requirements of the decree and that the boat and the owner demonstrate a genuine inability to pay, NOAA may forgo the amount standing, plus interest. If not, the $300,000 shall be due and owing.

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McDonald's Singing Idol
McDonald's is inviting all kids out there to join the first ever McDonald's Singing Idol. Come and showcase your singing talent!
How to join:
Simply come to McDonald's in Chalan Laulau and register on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009.
Registration begins from 8am to 5pm.
Elimination day is on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2009, 10am.
'Pick your own song' and bring your own CD or Minus one.
Five (5) participants for each category will be chosen on the Elimination day to compete on the final event.
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September 26
Lunch/Dinner Specials
Cheeseburger Sandwich $1.00
McChicken Sandwich $1.00
2 pcs. Apple Pie $1.00
Small Fries $1.00
All Kinds of Happy Meal (Hamburger, Cheeseburger, Nuggets) $2.99
Let's Help Our Schools! Come to McDonald's on September 19 & 26.
i'm lovin' it

ATF *team arrests 2 ex-convicts for allegedly selling 2 firearms*

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Government agents arrested yesterday two ex-convicts who allegedly sold guns to the authorities' confidential source.

The suspects—Damien Pua and Dexter Ulloa Maratita—were taken to the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday morning for their initial appearance hearing.

Pua listed the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and Trench Tech as his employer. A check with CUC record spells Pua's first name as Damian.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David A. Wiseman imposed no bail for both suspects and remanded them to the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.

The U.S. government filed separate complaints charging Pua and Maratita each with one count of possession of a firearm by a prohibited person.

Wiseman set the preliminary hearing for Pua on Sept. 25, 2009, at 9:30am and for Maratita on Sept. 25, 2009, at 2:30pm.

Special agent Hoang M. Nguyen of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives stated in his report that Pua has a previous conviction for second-degree homicide—a felony.

Nguyen said Maratita also has a prior conviction for theft.

The special agent said these convictions make it a crime for these two to possess or sell firearms.

Nguyen said Pua was caught in possession of a .357 Magnum revolver on Feb. 19, 2009, while Maratita had a Colt .25 caliber pistol on March 17, 2009.

Nguyen said that on Feb. 19, agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, the ATF's Guam Resident Office, and the U.S. Marshals Service collaborated with a "confidential source" of the Department of Public Safety to purchase a .357 Magnum revolver from Pua. The confidential source was given $500 for this purpose.

The confidential source went to the house of Pua and returned with a Colt .357 Magnum revolver and rounds of ammunition.

In Maratita's case, Nguyen said that on March 17, 2009, the DPS confidential source contacted Maratita and inquired if he still has his firearm and if he is willing to sell it. Maratita allegedly told the source that he wants to sell his handgun for $350.

After buying the Colt .25 caliber pistol from Maratita, the source handed the gun over to Nguyen.

ATF special agent in charge Robert R. Champion stated that the investigation "is a true example of how U.S. law enforcement agencies working together will enforce U.S. laws, however remote the location may be."

U.S. Attorney Leonardo Rapadas in a statement said the arrests of Pua and Maratita, along with three other persons for illegal drug charges ***(see main story)***, are the result of an 18-month long Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force investigation by federal law enforcement agencies.

Rapadas said the arrests were made without incident in pre-dawn operations by an ATF Special Response Team.

Alleged Tanapag 'ice' trafficking group falls

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Federal and local authorities believe they have dismantled a methamphetamine or "ice" trafficking organization based in Tanapag with the arrest yesterday of a suspected supplier and her two couriers or runners.

Julita Aldan Sablan and her alleged couriers—Inos F. Germinaro and Roque Norita—were arrested for conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance, and possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David Wiseman set no bail for the three defendants.

"For too long, these drug dealers have poisoned the streets and put fear into innocent people across the communities," said Timothy J. Landrum, the Drug Enforcement Administration special agent in charge, in a statement.

"These arrests dismantle this drug mob and should significantly impact drug-related crime in the communities where there organizations operated," Landrum added.

Landrum vowed that DEA, along with federal, state and local partners, will continue to pursue and attack criminal organizations in the community.

FBI-Honolulu special agent Tom Simon said they hope that yesterday's arrests will go a long way toward making Saipan a safer place to live and work.

DEA special agent Daniel G. Holcomb stated in his report that Sablan, Germinaro, and Norita conspired to distribute "ice" from August 2008 through July 28, 2009.

Holcomb said the "ice" deliveries in these cases were done near the cemetery in Lower Base, a poker arcade in Tanapag, and at the Banana Beach in Tanapag.

The agent said Sablan, using the co-defendants as couriers or runners, directed this "ice" trafficking organization in Tanapag.

Sablan has two prior federal convictions for "ice" trafficking. She just completed her prison term on Sept. 17, 2008. Sablan is currently on supervised release until Sept. 16, 2014, according to Holcomb.

Holcomb said Norita has a felony conviction for manslaughter and was arrested by the DEA in 2004 for "ice" distribution.

In the 2004 "ice" case, the charges were dismissed and Norita was subsequently freed.

Germinaro was arrested several times before for domestic violence.

Voter registration deadline today

The Commonwealth Election Commission is reminding all citizens of the Commonwealth of their last chance to register to participate in the general elections slated for Nov. 7.

The office will start accommodating registrants at 7:30am today to 11:3 am and from 12:30pm through 6pm.

Registrants are reminded to bring a copy of their birth certificate, current U.S. passport, or naturalization documents, which are necessary to determine their citizenship and eligibility to vote in the CNMI election.

The CEC office is located at 1313 Anatahan Drive on Capitol Hill.

For absentee voters, the commission said applicants may download the required registration forms from its Web site as well as instructions on how to mail the original package.

So long as the registration documents were notarized and postmarked on or before Sept. 18, the commission will still accept it after the deadline.

CEC said that previously registered voters who failed to vote in the 2007 regular general election must re-register to be eligible to vote this year.

There are 110 candidates vying for over 40 government seats in the general election. Four initiatives were also approved and certified for the November ballots.

As of Sept. 1, there were a total of 15,167 registered voters in the CNMI. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

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Guam's Gumataotao is US Navy's newest admiral

By DANIEL J. TAYLOR
SURFOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SAN DIEGO—Naval Surface Forces' chief of staff Capt. Peter A. Gumataotao became the first Guamanian U.S. Navy officer to attain flag rank when he was promoted to the rank of rear admiral lower half last Friday.

Vice Adm. D. C. Curtis, commander of the Naval Surface Forces and commander of the Naval Surface Force U.S. Pacific Fleet, delivered the oath of office to Gumataotao at a ceremony held at Naval Surface Forces Headquarters on Coronado Island, Calif.

Gumataotao's family and friends were in attendance to show their support and share in this event in his career.

"I am honored and humbled to be the Navy's newest," Gumataotao said. "I will take time to pause and reflect on all that I have gone through on the path that has brought me to this point in my life. I will then take that knowledge and apply it to whatever the Navy has in mind for me next."

Gumataotao is originally from Sinajana, Guam, where he grew up living and working on his family's ranch. One of five brothers, he lived in Guam until he turned 18. He then left home to attend the Naval Academy Preparatory School in Newport, Rhode Island.

"My parents gave me a solid core of values, like working hard, respect for others and dedication," said Gumataotao. "These were a building block for what I was taught at the prep school and later at the U.S. Naval Academy and fit in with the Navy's core values of honor, courage and commitment."

After graduating from NAPS, Gumataotao attended the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Resource Management.

"As I went through the many challenges at the U.S. Naval Academy and adjusted to a new environment, I fell back on the lessons and values my parents instilled in me growing up," said Gumataotao. "The core that they gave me has been the building block of my career. I hope they are proud of me, and I believe they are," he added.

Gumataotao said he has never forgotten his roots. He feels that career experiences, including 11 deployments, have only added to the foundation his parents gave him.

US NAVY

Family members help put on the shoulder patches of Capt. Peter A. Gumataotao, signifying his promotion to the rank of rear admiral lower half last Friday. Gumataotao, the Naval Surface Forces' chief of staff, became the first Guamanian U.S. Navy officer to attain the rank.

"One of the highlights from my time in the Navy was during the maiden deployment of USS Decatur, which was also my first time as the commanding officer. We had the opportunity to pull into Guam," said Gumataotao. "I had reached a point in my life where the Navy had seen fit to give me the awesome responsibility to command a ship, which is an amazing honor and responsibility. But, to be able to share that experience with people who knew me or knew of me, to pull into the same harbor where I used to go fishing as a kid, and to see the island open its arms to me, I felt very blessed and humbled to be given that opportunity and it made me glad that I chosen the Navy as a career."

SWINE FLU

From Page 1

confirmed cases include 65 new cases and the initial six that were counted in July.

DPH officials earlier said it sent over a hundred samples to Texas for testing. Of that number, 91 samples came back this week.

The 65 new confirmed cases translate to 71 percent of the total number of samples sent off island for testing, Brostrom said.

However, he emphasized that no one has been hospitalized or in the hospital at present for H1N1 influenza.

These patients, he said, were admitted sometime in July and August and were all released after being cleared of the flu.

Because the results were delayed, Brostrom and Tagabuel said they are giving physicians the authority to release the results to individual patients.

They said the CNMI has had no H1N1-related death so far and noted fewer cases of suspected infections compared to previous months.

Despite the noticeable decrease in emergency activities, Brostrom said the hospital is not letting its guard down, knowing the H1N1 virus is still circulating in the community.

There is still no information on the amount of H1N1 vaccines the CNMI expects to receive in November.

The two health officials reiterated that the first batch of vaccines will be distributed to those on the priority list, like pregnant women and infants.

As for the seasonal vaccines, Brostrom said they expect the vaccines to arrive this month.

'More severe in pregnant women'

DPH program analyst Roxanne Diaz reiterated the need to take basic precautionary measures to avert the spread of the virus.

Although the H1N1 flu is a new virus, DPH officials said it seems to be mild for most people but some individuals are more likely to get sick than others.

Recent information indicates that pregnant women are at higher risk than others for the flu.

"Sometimes, the flu can be very severe in pregnancy. While catching the flu during pregnancy rarely causes birth defects, pregnancy can increase the risk for flu complications such as pneumonia," DPH said, adding that the best way to have a healthy pregnancy is to avoid the flu altogether.

Brostrom advised schoolchildren to stay home if they have flu to avoid spreading the virus.

Since the opening of classes last week and after the recent two-day typhoon, CHC has yet to receive related cases or potential H1N1 cases among students, he said.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan earlier formed a task force to focus on preventing the virus' spread and impact. Channels for information dissemination as well as hotline numbers and health pamphlets were distributed to every school.

Public health officials also confirmed that the hospital recorded no injuries during the typhoon.

Although they set aside an area for possible early labor and delivery among pregnant women, Brostrom said only a few were admitted during the typhoon.

MILLIONS

From Page 1

With only two weeks to go before the end of FY 2009, the House committee is racing against time to get the bill filed and passed by the full House which is expected to hold a session next week.

The Senate may insert austerity measures in the House bill, said Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan).

Should the Senate reject the House bill, it may take longer to get a budget bill to reach Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's desk for action.

"If that's the case, then we would go under continuing resolution again. We know that the Legislature is also challenged by the meager resources," said acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

The Fitial administration provided its 2010 budget request to the Legislature in April.

Yumul said yesterday his bill reflects $150.5 million in total budgetary resources for FY 2010 under a House concurrent resolution approved in July.

He said the bill reflects a 16 percent employer contribution to the Retirement Fund instead of the current 11 percent as a result of a court ruling on the government's $213 million debt to the Fund. The difference means an additional $3.51 million that need to be budgeted from the general fund. Yumul said a special account will be created to help pay the pension fund.

The committee held another meeting yesterday afternoon to discuss the budget bill which, as of press time, still needed corrections and changes.

In the governor's 2010 budget submission, the estimated gross budgetary resource is $162.82 million.

However, some $4.65 million of this amount is earmarked for tobacco control, solid waste management, and Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s debt to MPLT. Another $7.67 million will go to payment of debts.

The total operating budget is $159.06 million. Of that, $8.56 million will come from non-general fund resources, like Compact Impact funds and expense transfers to certain special and revolving funds.

The remaining balance of $150.5 million will be funded through appropriations from the general fund.

ARRA FUNDS

From Page 1

In dollar amount, the CNMI's spending of $332,000 is way below what has already been used by the other territories as of yesterday's posting on the federal tracking system, www.recovery.gov.

To date, Guam has already spent over $16 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act money.

Puerto Rico has so far spent over $707.3 million; U.S. Virgin Islands, $13.6 million; American Samoa, over $3.9 million.

Three other Pacific island nations spent much more than the CNMI: the Federated States of Micronesia has spent $1.85 million of the $4.7 million made available to it; the Marshall Islands has paid out $1.6 million of $2.7 million; and Palau spent $836,000 of $2 million made available to it.

The CNMI has so far received a little over $53 million in total award notification under ARRA.

Of this, $27.935 million is now available for the CNMI to spend.

However, as of yesterday's posting on the federal tracking system, the CNMI has spent only $332,000.

Acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos, when asked for comment yesterday, said spending restrictions and requirements are keeping the government from spending the money as fast as it should.

The Fitial administration has been saying it wants to make sure that each ARRA dollar spent will be accounted for.

The federal government has set an Oct. 10 deadline for ARRA fund recipient reporting, and Inos said the CNMI will do its best to meet this deadline.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan said the CNMI is "off to a slow start," citing that the government has only paid out about $300,000 in ARRA funds while Guam has spent over $10 million so far.

Earlier this month, Sablan said at least $112 million will be coming in the next 18 months through ARRA, and the CNMI can compete for additional grants that could bring in tens of millions of dollars more.

"We're also sitting on over $50 million in capital improvement project money from years past. And, frankly, I am increasingly concerned that these grants could be yanked, if we don't start spending," he said.

Inos had said it takes awhile to spend CIP money because of the planning and requirements that need to be met.

Commerce Secretary Michael Ada, who is the ARRA team leader in the CNMI, earlier said the biggest challenge has been obligating money that's already in the local government's account.

Of the estimated $332,000 so far paid out by the CNMI, $223,000 is from the U.S. Department of Education; $104,000 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and $4,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

SURVEY

From Page 1

Saipan) said in a letter to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP).

Torres also offered solutions to these problems.

"I am requesting for additional funding and source of money, as it is certainly much needed. I am also cognizant of the fact that many other problems within CHC will not be resolved by more funding. Accordingly, this area must be addressed systematically despite the changes in administration or leadership," he told Sablan.

The survey included responses from 147 individuals, including 72 nurses and 12 doctors.

"It is…clear that our people are not getting the health services they need due to lack of doctors, nurses, support staff, technicians, lab service, radiology, etc. We have patients waiting for three [to] four hours in the emergency room, only to be informed that no doctors are available to assist them and to go to a private clinic," Torres said.

The committee chairman said the difficulty of recruiting doctors is a result of low salary, while the inability to retain doctors is the result of mismanagement and physicians feeling unappreciated.

To help address CHC's problems, Torres recommended the immediate hiring of the following: a nephrologist, emergency room doctors, five internal medicine doctors, three pediatricians, two psychiatrists, one orthopedic surgeon, and one specialist for ears, nose and throat. He also seeks to privatize or outsource imaging study or invite a Guam radiology clinic.

"Currently, there is no MRI available on Saipan and all MRI are done [in] Guam at Guam Radiology. Our patients must fly to Guam to receive imaging study and fly back to Saipan to see our doctors and then get recommendation on proper treatment. This causes significant burden on our patients and delay in receiving medical treatment," he said.

Among the long-term solutions he offered were the elimination of the medical referral or significantly reducing it and providing all hemodialysis services in the CNMI.

"I am requesting for your urgent and immediate assistance and input as we move forward to solving these problem affecting our health care. We must also request for assistance from the [U.S.] Department of Health and Welfare to provide us with professionals, technical services, and grants as we move forward in identifying further problems and assessing the proper solutions," Torres told Sablan.

New hearing schedule

The House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare also rescheduled the public hearing on CHC or Department of Public Health issues for Sept. 22.

Tuesday's hearings will be held at 10am in the House chamber on Capital Hill, and another one at 6pm in the Garapan Elementary School cafeteria.

The committee seeks to receive testimony for health care issues, including but not limited to medical personnel, emergencies, medical referral and dialysis.

Man'Amko Center in Garapan closed for a week

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Since Monday, the Man'Amko Center in Garapan has been closed and will remain closed for the entire week for minor cleanup and repairs.

Acting director Rose Mondala said Wednesday that the venue was designated as a long-term shelter for typhoon evacuees during the onslaught of Super Typhoon Choi-Wan on Monday and Tuesday.

Although the center did not receive any evacuees during the two-day typhoon, Mondala said she decided to keep the center closed, at least until the end of this week, so that center staff could do minor cleanups and repairs.

In the meantime, the agency will only be serving its homebound clients, totaling 138 at present.

Mondala said the center's staff will remove the old carpet at the administrative offices and replace them with tiles.

She said the move is also in consideration of the welfare of the elderly.

"This carpet has been there for 15 years…and we found a lot of molds. This is also for the welfare of our man'amko," she told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the center procured a total of 1,003 tiles using a portion of the federal grant it received in Fiscal Year 2009, which ends this month.

Mondala assured that the cleanup will be completed by Sunday so the center could open by Monday.

Mondala's next target this new fiscal year is the minor repair of the center's 12 restrooms for the elderly.

She added that because service to their 138 homebound clients is limited to delivering foods, they decided to continue with this.

The only ones affected by the closure are the *man'amko* who go to the center daily, called the congregates. About 75 senior citizens regularly hang out at the center for recreation and activities.

Several *man'amko* complained about the closure, saying they were not told beforehand about it. They also expressed disappointment with the decision to close the center for one week, believing the cleanup could be done during the weekends when they are out of the center.

Mondala admitted that no memorandum was issued about the closure and that information was only issued via telephone calls.

Saipan Tribune learned that those who knew of the shutdown schedule were those who called the center on Wednesday.

When asked if there were senior citizens who were unaware of the closure and had visited the center, Mondala said they saw only two, who were then informed of the schedule.

Saipan Tribune learned that Mondala was asked on Wednesday by the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs to explain the closure; the department later concurred with her decision.

"I wrote a letter to the secretary explaining the decision… and we attached the photos of the affected offices. I received a fax message from the office and got the approval, so we continued what we started," Mondala told *Saipan Tribune.*

Mondala said business at the Aging Center is back to normal beginning Monday.

CPA approves $70K for legal counsel, three new contracts for top positions

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board approved a $5,000 salary increase for its legal counsel and renewed the contracts of three other top management positions during a special meeting Wednesday.

Jose A. Bermudes, the agency's legal counsel, was given an annual salary of $70,000 under his new contract. He was previously hired at $65,000.

During the board's deliberation, two members voted against approving the rate increase, citing the present financial situation of the agency, which does not expect revenue numbers to improve next fiscal year.

Board vice chair Thomas Villagomez and Rota board member Barry Toves believe the rate increase is contrary to the agency's hiring freeze policy and belt-tightening measures.

"Do we have other employees who got an increase?" Villagomez asked the agency's comptroller, Frances Mafnas, who admitted that nobody else has been given a salary increase.

Mafnas said, however, that the legal counsel position was originally budgeted for $70,000 but only $65,000 was provided in previous years.

"It [salary increase] is within the budget…" Mafnas told Villagomez.

Toves cited some instances on Rota where some positions were not filled or replaced just to realize some savings.

"Many posts were not filled… and every one is asked to tighten their belts," Toves said.

Prior to excusing himself from the deliberation, Bermudes said he is willing to accept the board's decision on his new contract.

In the end, majority favored the rate adjustment: chairman Jose Lifoifoi, members Benigno Sablan, Fermin Sakisat, and Margarita Prater.

For the comptroller position, Villagomez abstained from voting to amend the contract of comptroller Mafnas whose term will now expire in July 2010 from the original six-month contract, which was supposed to end in December 2009.

Mafnas was named to the position after the resignation of David Blake in July.

The board unanimously approved to renew the contract of Saipan port manager MaryAnn Q. Lizama with the same salary schedule of $50,000 and expiring on October 2010.

Edward B. Mendiola, Saipan airport manager, was also renewed with the same salary of $50,000 annually and a term that expires in October 2010.

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Over 600 sign up for Saturday's coastal cleanup

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By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 600 volunteers from at least 25 groups have so far signed up for Saturday morning's coastal cleanup on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, joining hundreds of thousands from around the world in the 24th International Coastal Cleanup.

It will be Saipan and Tinian's first time to join the worldwide cleanup, while Rota has been joining since 2007, according to Lisa Eller, federal programs outreach and publications coordinator at the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality.

As of 2pm Thursday, a little over 600 volunteers on Saipan have signed up, an increase from 562 as of Wednesday.

"People are still signing up. There may be more by Friday. …We don't want people to just pick up trash; we want them to know more about the impacts of marine debris on the marine environment and on humans," Eller told *Saipan Tribune.*

Saturday's cleanup will be from 8am to 12pm.

Those who want to sign up may contact Eller at 664-8500, or Angelo Villagomez of Beautify CNMI! at 285 6462.

From 18 Saipan beach sites adopted on Wednesday, the number went up to over 20 yesterday.

ON THE NET
- www.marinedebris.noaa.gov
- www.oceanconservancy.org
- www.beautifycnmi.org

The number of participating groups, including private businesses, non-profit organizations, schools, political candidates and government agencies, has also gone up from 20 to at least 25 as of yesterday.

Nearly 400,000 volunteers collected more than 6.8 million pounds of trash in 100 countries and 42 U.S. states during the 2008 International Coastal Cleanup, the world's largest volunteer effort of its kind.

This is according to the Washington, D.C.-based non-profit advocacy group Ocean Conservancy, which promotes healthy and diverse ocean ecosystems.

In partnership with organizations and individuals across the globe, Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup urges people to remove trash and debris from the world's beaches and waterways, identify the sources of debris, and change the behaviors that cause marine debris in the first place.

In the CNMI, the coastal cleanup is being coordinated by DEQ, in partnership with Beautify CNMI! and the Coastal Resources Management.

DEQ staff will transfer and dispose of all the trash collected by volunteers.

The volunteers have adopted at least 15 beach sites on Saipan, divided into three areas: the north end, the eastern shore, and the Saipan Lagoon. The specific sites include the Garapan Fishing Base, Kilili Beach, Lao Lao Beach, Cow Town Beach, Pau Pau Beach, Jeffrey's Beach and Old Man by the Sea Beach.

The Tinian Chamber of Commerce led by its president, Phillip Mendiola-Long (contact number: 989-4711), will be cleaning up the Unai Dankalo area.

Organizers said the coastal cleanup will help reduce and prevent marine debris from impacting the marine environment and human health.

The economic impact of marine debris can be difficult to quantify but their impact to marine resources, tourism, vessels and navigation, ecosystems, and human health and safety all have a cost.

Gubernatorial bets present platform to Bar members

Acting Gov. Eloy Inos, Juan Pan Guerrero, and Ramon "Kumoi" Guerrero presented their platforms yesterday to members of the NMI Bar Association.

Independent candidates Juan Guerrero and Ramon Guerrero were joined by their respective running mates, Joseph Norita Camacho and Dr. David Borja, in the gubernatorial forum during the NMI Bar Association's luncheon at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovannis.

The Republican Party's Rep. Heinz Hofschneider and his running mate, Speaker Arnold Palacios, were not present.

Inos said what the CNMI needs now is stability of leadership during rapidly changing times and that he and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's leadership has been tested and proven the past four years.

"There are still many issues to be resolved and the next four years will be very critical for our Commonwealth. We cannot afford to start from scratch with untested new leaders facing more unprecedented challenges. We must rely on experience," Inos said.

He cited the challenges their administration faced in the past four years: the withdrawal of Japan Airlines, the collapse of the garment industry, federalization, federal minimum wage hikes, falling revenues, breakdown of power plants, spikes in oil prices, Japanese recession, a 30-percent devaluation in the Korean won, the global economic recession, and the Retirement Fund crisis.

"We imposed severe budget cuts and exercised strong financial discipline, balancing our budget and establishing the CNMI's first austerity holidays by financial necessity," he said.

Inos said they also reduced the government's annual operating budget by at least 30 percent and made difficult decisions to stabilize the government.

He said they recovered $50 million in federal cover over taxes and released tax refunds and rebates on time.

Inos said they ended the rolling power outages and ended the need for Aggreko generators.

He said they secured some $96 million in ARRA funds, including stabilization funds for the Northern Marianas College and Public School System.

Clean campaign

Juan Guerrero stressed that he and Camacho are running a clean campaign that does not answer to any special interest group.

"What we promise is to make our Commonwealth a better place and easier place to do business," Juan Guerrero said.

He identified issues that according to him are of grave importance such as the economy, federal relations, Retirement Fund, government efficiency, health care, education, tourism, a safer community, and utilities and infrastructure.

Juan Guerrero said the CNMI must treat businesses of all sizes equitably regardless if it's new or already existing.

To attract foreign investors, Juan Guerrero said, it is the governor's job to ensure that the legal and regulatory frameworks are attractive for investors.

On judicial appointments, Juan Guerrero said politics should not be the basis for such appointments and that participation and input of the Bar Association are important in the selection of judges.

He expressed support for an appointed AG but with the autonomy similar to the public auditor.

"If we do take the elected format, we need a mechanism for a removal process. But before we embark on this issue, we should study it and, of course, the Bar's input and opinion should be considered carefully, similar with the judicial appointments," he said.

With a strong AG in place, Juan Guerrero said, the CNMI should be able to address public safety issues and provide for a safer community for residents and visitors alike.

On the federal lawsuit, Juan Guerrero said the CNMI has its own attorneys the government should be using, instead of retaining private counsel at taxpayers' expenses.

With respect to the federal takeover, he said this is too important for the federal government to rush its implementation just to meet an arbitrary deadline.

In vain

For Ramon Guerrero, things just got worse under the Fitial administration.

"We have waited in vain," Ramon Guerrero said.

He said he is running for governor because the CNMI needs to turn around the power situation.

Ramon Guerrero said the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is now bleeding the CNMI Treasury to the tune of $100 million per year.

On federalization, Ramon Guerrero believes that CNMI should not fight the federal government on that issue.

"If elected I will drop the anti-federalization lawsuit. Rather, we need to try to work closely with the federal government, to ensure the process of federalization will assist our economic development efforts," he said.

Ramon Guerrero said his biggest challenge would be steering the CNMI toward surviving the hard economic times.

"We need to start enhancing our tourism industry. We need to focus on marketing our culture, and provide unique attractions other than sun and beach. We need good shopping, we need good family entertainment," he said.

Future leadership

Bar Association president Maya Kara said they invited the gubernatorial candidates and their potential lieutenants to speak to the group because they feel the association represents an important part of the community.

"We are in a position to guide a lot of people in their businesses and affairs. And it is important for us to know what the future leadership of the Commonwealth will be. And this is a good way for us to know them and have them talk about issues that concern all of us," Kara said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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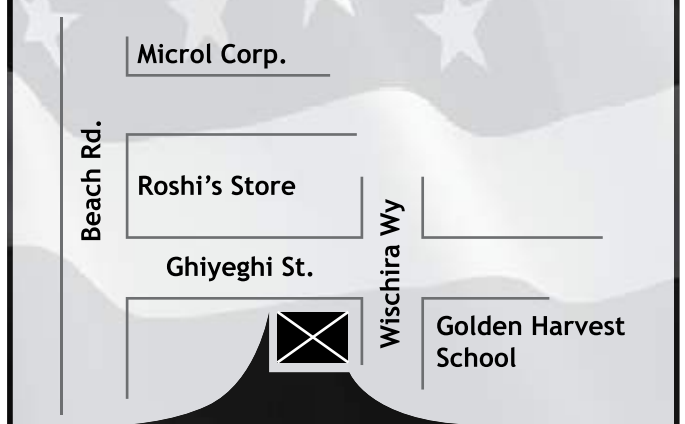

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'Limited services at key CHC sections not new'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The limited services being rendered by the Commonwealth Health Center's pediatric and internal medicine sections have been going on for over five years now due to the lack of physicians for both clinics, according to Medical Director Dr. Richard Brostrom yesterday.

Although these sections have not been totally closed down, he confirmed that only a few doctors are available to accommodate all patients seeking medical attention in these fields.

"Services [in these two clinics] were reduced considerably due to lack of physicians. They have been periodically reduced in the past five or six years," Brostrom said, refusing to disclose how many physicians currently serve the two clinics.

However, Brostrom said, private clinics are now taking up the slack for the two sections after they allowed patients' access to care using Medicaid and Medicare.

"Compared to the previous years, the difference now is, even though CHC reduced the services at these two clinics, patients are now getting good medical care from private clinics," Brostrom said, adding that this arrangement is helping mitigate the ongoing doctor shortage at the only government-run hospital on island.

Saipan Tribune learned that there are currently 32 doctors at the hospital, including part-time and visiting physicians.

Brostrom said the few doctors now assigned to pediatric and internal medicine clinics are focusing on hospital activities. He said CHC hopes to get full-time physicians for both sections soon.

The hospital began collaborating with private clinics, including dental clinics, more than a year ago.

Public health officials said the initiative has had a "positive" impact on the delivery of health care services.

"It's working…and we encourage patients to go to these private clinics for medical care," Brostrom said.

Although reports have come out about the resignation of CHC chief of staff Dr. Florian Braig, Brostrom said yesterday that he has not seen any documentation so far.

Braig is the hospital's only eye, ear, and nose doctor.

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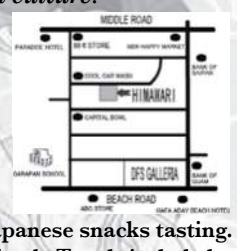

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 18, 2000

Gov't disagrees with CUC billing

Finance officials will have to meet with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation in order to reach a settlement over unpaid utility bills after they found "discrepancies" between what CUC is demanding and what the government actually owes. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has instructed Finance Sec. Lucy DLG. Nielsen to discuss the matter following a "hastily-called" meeting last week on the heels of CUC's threat to cut off power to several government offices. Administration officials have discovered the discrepancies between the two records of CUC and Department of Finance that will have to be reviewed, according to the governor's spokesperson Catherine Anderson.

Teno signs election reform law

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has signed legislation reforming "archaic" elections laws in the CNMI to give ample time to the Board of Elections for its implementation ahead of next year's general polls. But he prodded lawmakers to correct a major provision regarding residency requirement for eligibility to vote on the islands for fear of future constitutional challenge. Public Law 12-18 or the "Northern Mariana Islands Election Reform Act of 2000" updates existing statute passed in 1977 governing such political exercise aimed at ensuring smooth polling system here. It puts in place new procedures and requirements for the registration of voters and the overall conduct of elections, such as prevention of intimidation of voters and administration by BOE during polls.

Sept. 18, 2001

NMI unemployment rate seen to skyrocket

Unemployment rate in the Northern Marianas is anticipated to rise as businesses from all economic sectors in the Commonwealth crumble due to the projected mammoth drop in air travel. Many fearful passengers were expected to refrain from flying in the coming weeks and even months following the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon last week. Continental Airlines and other US carriers have already seen their reservations fall off. Many corporations had reportedly instructed employees to avoid US carriers. More than 40 percent of Japanese tourists, who were scheduled to visit the island this week, reportedly canceled their airline and hotel bookings at the last minute.

NMI tourism faces gloomier days

Of the five international flights that arrived yesterday morning at the CNMI airport, only nine passengers were tourists. In that manner did the first ripples of the terror attacks in the US mainland reach the distant shores of the Northern Marianas, with officials from the government and private sector now predicting a fall in the tourism industry by as much as 40 percent in the next three months. Much like what happened during the Gulf War in 1990, the fallout from the terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington DC had CNMI government and the tourism industry sector scrambling yesterday afternoon to find ways to mitigate this disaster facing the Commonwealth.

Sept. 18, 2002

Govt spotlight on tourism

"We have a product and it's beautiful but we really need to work on making this product much better." With these words, Gov. Juan N. Babauta set the tone and background for his meeting with the Marianas Visitors Authority on Monday, as the administration and the agency explored ways of ratcheting up the number of tourist arrivals in the Commonwealth. And with about 17 million Japanese tourists going abroad every year, Babauta said the bigger picture would entail having the CNMI tapping into at least 10 percent of that-or about 1.7 million Japanese tourists annually.

PSS wants contracting authority over its CIPs

The State Board of Education is seeking to gain control over both the contracting and expenditure aspects of school constructions so it could play a more direct and active role in overseeing the Public School System's Capital Improvement Projects. Members of the BOE, led by acting Chair Roman C. Benavente, yesterday adopted a resolution that underscored the need for PSS to hold both the contracting and expenditure authorities over all future school projects. This way, the board believes it can closely supervise and control the development and construction of major undertakings.

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A mighty controversy

The videos, aired mostly by Fox News and other cable news outlets, are truly shocking: A pair of conservative activists posing as a pimp and a prostitute go to the offices of the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, pretending to be seeking assistance getting a loan to run a brothel. Their hidden camera captures ACORN workers dispensing such advice as how to create a fictitious business name, how to classify the business on tax forms ("performance arts") and how to handle the tax consequences of smuggling more than a dozen underage prostitutes from El Salvador to work at the facility (an ACORN worker helpfully advises them to write off the girls as "dependents").

Unfortunately for ACORN, this isn't the first time the liberal advocacy group has been in the news. It became a liability for then-Sen. Barack Obama during the presidential campaign after almost a third of the 1.3 million new voters it registered were rejected, in some cases because they were fraudulent. During one of the debates, Sen. John McCain questioned Obama's past relationship with the group, which Obama had represented as a lawyer in a 1995 lawsuit.

Given all the scrutiny, one would have expected ACORN to be doing everything in its power to make sure its activities were squeaky clean. Yet since the initial video was released last week showing ACORN workers in Baltimore who appeared to be aiding and abetting criminal activity, activist filmmaker James O'Keefe has released two more showing similar behavior at ACORN offices in Washington and Brooklyn. The response from ACORN? Fire the workers involved and blame Fox News.

"We are the boogeyman for the right-wing and its echo chambers," reads a self-serving statement released Saturday by ACORN's chief organizer, Bertha Lewis. She claimed the videos were "doctored" and threatened legal action against Fox. What she didn't do is apologize for the appalling and possibly illegal behavior of ACORN employees, acknowledge that the organization has serious internal problems and vow to correct them, or do what she should have done as soon as the scandal was revealed: resign.

O'Keefe's hidden-camera methods are distasteful, and the extent to which his videos were edited is unknown. Their content is nonetheless devastating to ACORN -- so much so that, on Monday, the Senate voted overwhelmingly to withhold federal housing funds from the group. That's a shame because ACORN does worthwhile work in poor communities, helping people avoid foreclosure, giving them tax help and, yes, registering them to vote. If ACORN is to survive and retain a shred of credibility, it needs to stop deflecting blame and clean house.

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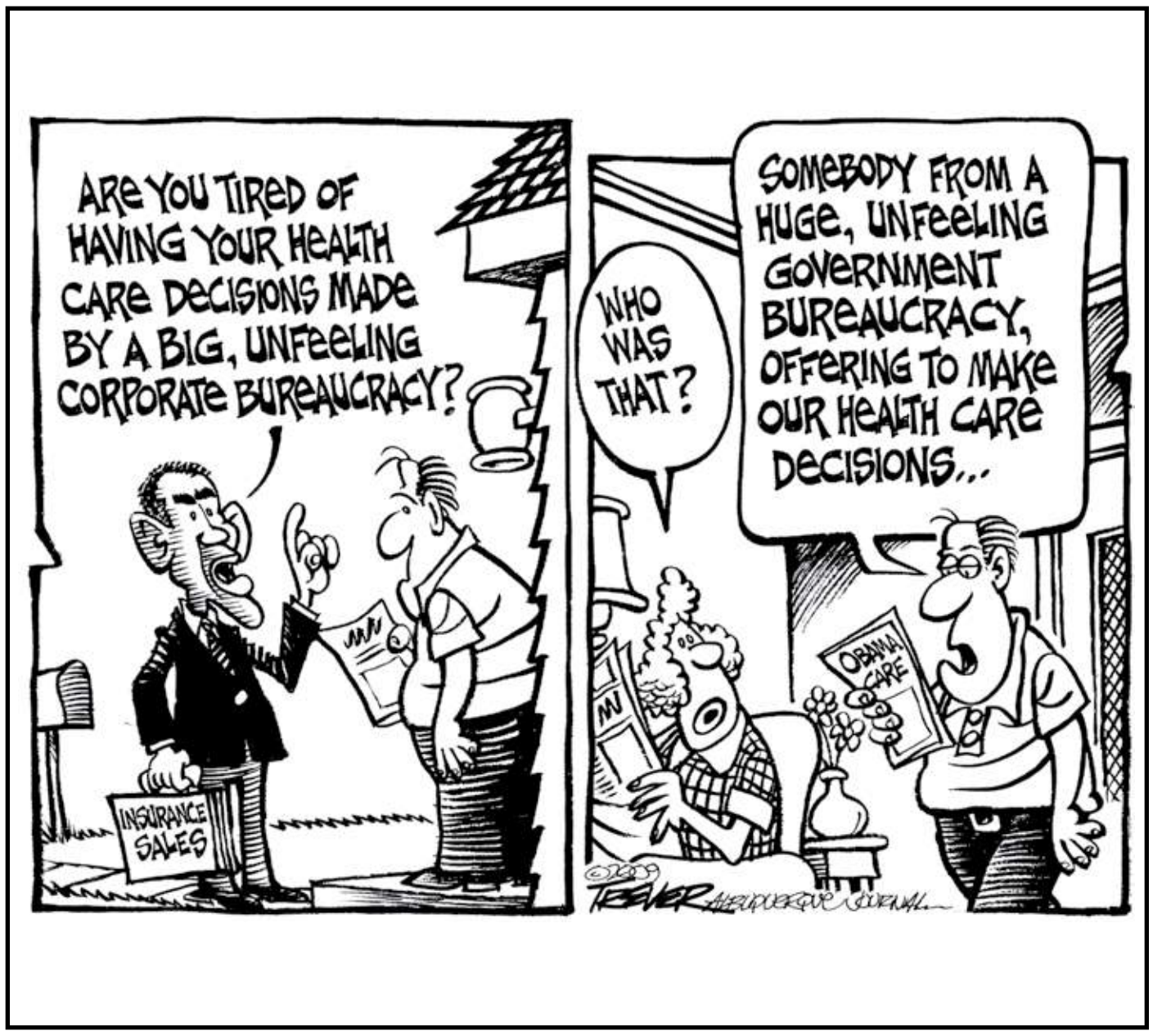
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By ED STEPHENS

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

Advertising, like all communications, entails a risk: Anything you say can be, and often times will be, used against you in the court of public opinion. When it comes to tourism marketing—the most important realm for the CNMI—I've seen success, and I've seen, well, less than success.

But some places put a lot of effort into searing their destinations into the minds of their target customers, and, apparently, the results are mixed.

Las Vegas has long been my favorite example of successful destination branding. Seeking to promote its naughty side, a few years ago Vegas titillated the longings of middle America with this slogan: "What happens here, stays here."

That's pure genius. It's simple. It's memorable. It's suggestive enough to whisper hints into your ear of salacious secrets, but not suggestive enough to invoke the ire of the sour-faced set. And, of course, it builds on Vegas' already established image as "Sin City," so they're not even cutting new ground, but instead hoisting a conceptual neon pointer to a well-known gig.

Incidentally, this bad-boy edge replaced the family-friendly, and, from all accounts, unproductive slogan, "It's anything and everything." Now that's a vapid slogan if ever there was one.

I don't know if the "What happens here" campaign is still active, but, active or not, it has earned a place in the history of destination branding.

So that went well. But not everything does. The nation of Denmark just dealt itself a joker, as it sought to pretty much sell itself in a steamy light as well. A promotional video posted on YouTube featured a women trying to re-establish contact with her one-night stand from her vacation. Drinks were involved. The woman doesn't remember the name of her temporary beau, but she does have a more tangible reminder of the liaison, namely, a child. Such is the theme of the ad. It was produced in English, so, apparently, English-speaking people are the target market. After getting a lot of complaints, the video was pulled.

According to a BBC News account of the debacle, Dorte Kiilerich, VisitDenmark manager, said it was "a nice and sweet story about a grown-up woman who lives in a free society and accepts the consequences of her actions."

It's not up to me to decide whether the ad is a bold statement of modern, enlightened mores, or a sordid tale of dubious taste in vacation marketing. I don't care either way. But here we do see the risk of trying to be edgy, particularly when crossing cultural lines: People can react differently than the authors (or the managers behind them) intended. Of course, what really matters is how your targeted market reacts; in this case, perhaps people who are inclined to visit Denmark also enjoy the ad. If they do, well, that's all that matters.

Oddly enough, one of more memorable ads I've seen was a computer file of a spot that was sort of an opposite play on the Denmark ad. The video (which I assume was for television, and I also assume is Belgian), features a harried father trying to shop in a supermarket. Unfortunately, his kid pitches an epic, shrieking temper tantrum in the market, causing the father obvious distress and embarrassment. A look of hopeless despair settles onto the father's face. Then the tag line flashes on the screen: "Use condoms." Then the brand name, "Zazoo," flashes. End of spot.

Whether this ad was considered controversial, I know not. I doubt it would have gone over well on Saipan. But, from a business communications standpoint, its merits depend on how its target market reacts to the ad, and that market was (I assume) in Europe.

A marketing expert once told me that the creative side of good TV advertisement should have three elements: It should be (1) a depiction of a slice of life, (2) humorous, and (3) memorable.

And even a great ad that meets all three criteria might accomplish nothing. One very famous and popular TV advertising campaign of the 1970s was for Alka-Seltzer, making the words "I can't believe I ate the whole thing" a household phrase. From what I recall, despite the ads creative success, sales of the product didn't go up, and the campaign was abandoned.

At least that's what I think I remember. But my memories can be a bit fuzzy sometimes. Especially that weekend in Copenhagen. Or was it Vegas? No, I think it was Saipan, which should be as famous as Vegas, but we're not there yet.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

America by Rails Part 4: On the Coast Starlight in Ecotopia

Travel notes, live and on virtual time (a social commentary)

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

The San Francisco crowd that boarded the *Coast Starlight* headed for Seattle and on to Vancouver, British Columbia, was a different crowd in class and style than the ones on the *Sunset Limited* between Houston to Los Angeles. These ones were definitely more upscale young people in school and vacationing retirees in or bound to Ecotopia.

San Francisco's more liberal and tolerant policies of cultural diversity and nondiscriminatory gender practices make the geography attractive to otherwise excluded and frequently maligned fringes in contemporary American society. For instance, SF is home to the largest contingent of Chinese outside of China, ahead of Vancouver, BC. This coastal corridor abut the Pacific Ocean ranks as the healthiest bioregion in the United States. It is also straining at the seams over the countless homeless citizens attracted to the mild weather and welcoming policies of California, Oregon and Washington States.

Foremost, however, are the outdoors, and the high percentage of nature "worshipers" in this geographical corridor that has earned it the combination of ecological sustainability in a utopian vision contained in the word "ecotopia."

The mellow yellow feel of this territory gets more pronounced in the State of Oregon. Amtrak's *Coast Starlight* heading north is train #14, which hits sunrise just about the time it hits the border between California and Oregon. While northern California shares the same physical features as southern Oregon, the sight of verdant terrain on the train in the early morn sets the soul aquiver in primordial fashion.

The *Coast Starlight #14 northward and #11 southward* are never really on time since many sections on the line are single rails, which means that when one of the runs is late, the rest in the system becomes delayed as well. This is no discomfort to this old coot out to leisurely scoop the health of the American soul from the clientele in America's rails.

Oregon was the first state to declare itself "green," emblazoning the word in its State ID as Oregon the Green State. Famed for protecting the habitat of the spotted owl, it has enough forests to satisfy Cascades paper company for a long time, though the paper mill in Salem is currently being dismantled, ceasing operations while cleanup of the chemical effluent into the Willamette river proceeds, a no longer uncommon act of corporate responsibility.

Our hosts, graduates of Claremont College in southern Cal, showed us Lincoln and De Poe towns on the coast, right on the region that first got James Cook setting anchor in one of its bays. An hour's drive from Salem, the sight of good old primary pine tree growth in public land was enough to cause this natural resource management practitioner's heart a-flutter. That and the sight of a buffalo herd outside of Salem sent my sight scouring for forts and teepees. There were not any, but the native American-owned Spirit Mountain Casino loomed huge and popular on the way to the coast. Ambivalent over this tactic that the native American population employ for economic and political reasons, my hosts assured me that their take greatly benefits educational agencies and other NGO services around the state.

Still, the cost of servicing gambling addiction, the rampant abuse by low-income social security recipients in spending monthly benefits in one day of reckless spree, the criminal influence in the operation of games and the conduct of ancillary human resource personnel associated with the trade, gives one enough for pause. This strikes home particularly as we now have Tinian and Rota casino-friendly, and Saipan already littered with poker rooms not too far behind!

What was a delight was to learn that one of the coastal locations was where one of the scenes in *One Flew Over the Cuckcoo's Nest* was filmed, when cuckcoo Jack Nickolson's character took the group to a rump by the ocean shore. Of course, the rest of the nation considers Oregon nutty in its faithful adherence to green. Along with California, it boosts the two largest wind turbine power-generating fields in the nation.

Undeterred by public opinion, one of the tourist offices' plaque seems to reflect the state's general indifference. It read: "1892, nothing of significance happened this day in this site." Oregonians do not seem to do things out of a desire to please others; they do it because they just want to get it done! It is no surprise that Nike headquartered in Beaverton north of Portland has the motto: Just do it! Very Oregonian, indeed.

For one concerned with the state of our human habitat, Portland comes as a breath of fresh air, metaphorically and literally. I had visited the place for their forest museum almost 20 years ago, but this time, the phrase "planned neighborhood" comes as a pleasant category rather than a section of real estate marketing.

I got in touch with David Atalig, erstwhile SVES PTA president and one of NMC's finance officers who moved his family to Salem two years ago, presumably, to join the other Ataligs who are sufficiently represented in the phone directory. He has since moved to the Portland State University and we failed to visually connect because he assisted Ben Seman's move to Beaverton.

Frankly, the Atalig and Seman's move to Oregon is enviable. Were I to choose a place to relocate, I would seriously look into the Portland area. Their public TriMet light rail transit system would be the envy of many, already being replicated in several cities around the country. The number of bicycle and the ease of access within the rail makes the city very healthy indeed. In fact, if I have any regrets in the accelerated urbanization of Chinese cities, it is the radical loss of bicycle riders off its cities' main thoroughfares. And, of course, Ivan Groom's suggestion for reasonably rentable bicycles on stands on Beach Rd., from San Antonio to San Roque, was quickly sneered at with the comment, probably accurate, that the bicycles would disappear within 24 hours.

The planned communities around the Orenco TriMet stop north of Portland benefit from the New Seasons outlet of all kinds of organic produce. Storefront commerce on the first floor under lofts for housing renders the neighborhood, as well as the currently resident-friendly downtown area, susceptible to social vibrancy and broad human interaction.

Community where "people feel they belong" is the social challenge of the times. One can't go wrong pursuing the promise of ecotopia in their lives and their own communities.

Disorienting issues

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

President Obama's first domestic policy on health care has fired up a huge forest fire from people in small towns across the country. I admire his position on pre-existing conditions in order to ensure that greedy insurance firms don't marginalize folks in this category. But then, he did everything except mend the vicious and contentious divide among his fellow Democrats on Capitol Hill. And now he's pointing his accusatory fingers at Republicans. What else is new in a debate that has gone past the tranquil sea of civility?

■■■

Around the region, there's the spat between our country and China on tire manufacturing. The U.S. is prepared to levy a 35 percent increase on tire imports from China. The argument is the apparent job losses in tire factories across the country. I think the greater question is: What were the overriding factors that led to the closure or brink of closure of U.S. tire manufacturing? Isn't it the high cost of labor fanned by labor unions? Is this the fault of the Republic of China? Didn't China purchase $800 billion of toxic assets from the U.S.? Didn't she accommodate the establishment of large U.S. companies on her turf? It's a protectionist decision that blames China for something she didn't create.

■■■

The proposed regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security presents new sets of requirements relating to foreign investors. Personally, it's a perfect recipe to fast forward economic annihilation of what's left of a devastated economy. We were given a deadline to submit our viewpoints. Whether Homeland Security sees the issue from our set of prism remains to be seen.

We would be dealing with what economic experts and financial analysts call "ambiguity." Basically, this pertains to a failed federal law that leaves more questions unanswered. It paves the way for the establishment of super sub-agencies that fan out more stifling regulations as a result of the lack clarity from the original statute. We're not alone in this experience. Some 29 other states have refused to take up any share of the stimulus package for fear of being federalized where their rights are compromised. They believe that what isn't expressly delegated to the federal government must reside in the states.

■■■

With some 143 candidates vying for various elected offices, perhaps this is as good a time for the Legislature to establish an Election Industry.

Politics seems the only thing we know best though it's far from being a revenue-generating venture. But let's take these guys to the hilt, i.e., quiz them on policymaking, realistic economic programs that would generate wealth and jobs creation or their views on the future of education. If these issues are way above their heads, please save us the pain and embarrassment by voluntarily withdrawing your name from the ballot. After all, we both deserve our peace of mind.

■■■

I did my due diligence seeking for scapegoats on all that may have gone wrong in the global village. There's anger spewing out of once quiet towns from people speaking up against their representatives in the US Congress.

This divide demonstrates the obvious disconnect between national policymakers and the people they represent back home. President Obama has lost political capital. But his democratic colleagues are even more troubled by fear that their days a numbered and aren't likely to retain their seats in next year's midterm election. Well, you are what you eat, isn't it?

Letters to the Editor

Image vs action

Ken Phillips is blogging again at SOSaipan. Good thing. From him, we get this lovely observation: "This whole transition to federal control has had a somewhat surreal quality, like a community theater production of *Waiting for Godot* under the palms."

And in the newspapers, we get Rep. Diego Benevente. His take is that 1) the federalization law will be beneficial "in the long run;" 2) but the time to prepare for it is too short.

Several thoughts come clashing into my head at once on reading this:

■ By Nov. 28, 2009, we will have had one and 1/2 years to prepare. If we can't do the job in that amount of time, more time won't help.

■ When I say we, I mean we—both the CNMI and the U.S. The U.S. government is our government, just as the CNMI government is our government.

■ The CNMI has done little to prepare for federalization of our immigration except complain and try to stop it.

■ Rep. Diego Benevente and other CNMI politicians are in a position to criticize the U.S. government for not getting things done? The guys who took years to pass a budget? The guys who never corrected the CNMI's immigration issues in decades?

Rep. Diego Benevente complains about the uncertainty caused by the change to U.S. immigration. There is a simple solution to help address this concern. The CNMI Legislature can pass a law that grants the maximum status of two years to aliens who are here, status that could begin on Nov. 27, 2009, and apply to all aliens in the CNMI (except recent arrivals). This would protect our current labor force without violating the CNRA cap on new admissions; it would provide stability and a means for planning for businesses and people; it would lessen anxiety. It might even go a long way toward redressing some of the grievances our alien workers have against us.

Would the CNMI Legislature do something this simple? Something within their means? Or will they only be concerned about their image in the newspapers? Endless discussions about how the CNMI has not abused anyone; how it is a usurpation of our right to self-government to take over immigration; how our current administration cares.

Never mind the people who have lived here for many years and who may now be out of status due to circumstances or may need time and money to transition to a U.S. status.

Never mind that we agreed in our Covenant to let the U.S. extend its immigration here whenever it decided to do so.

Never mind that we still have some control and the means to take precautions against the harms foreseen.

Better to rant about the predictions of a coming storm than put up typhoon shutters and lay in stores of water and candles. Better to complain about the U.S. not doing what it needs to do. Better to seek delay of what is "beneficial" to the CNMI!

Jane Mack
San Vicente, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

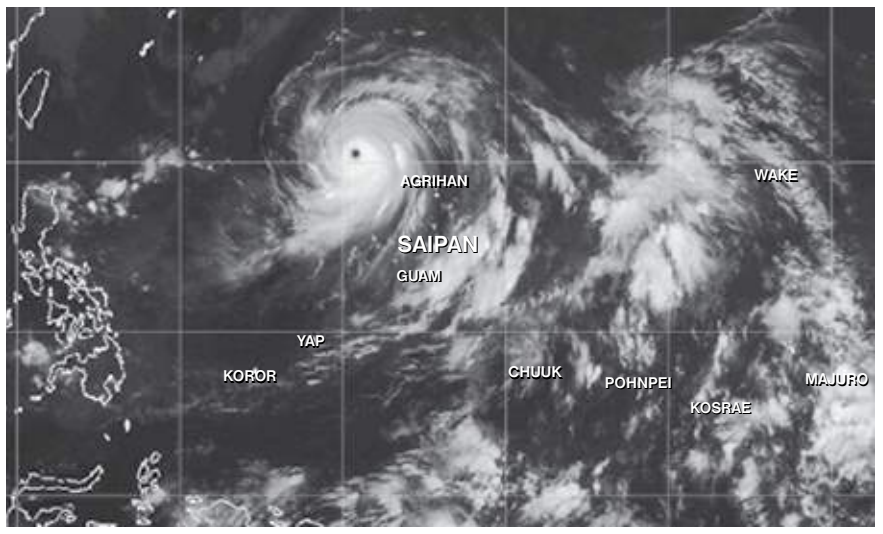
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲86	▼78
Palau	Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Yap	Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲89	▼78
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲90	▼77
Majuro	Rain	▲87	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲64	▼58
Beijing	Sunny	▲81	▼61
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲91	▼82
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼78
London	Cloudy	▲70	▼54
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼64
Manila	Showers	▲85	▼77
Melbourne	Sunny	▲67	▼49
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼79
New York	Cloudy	▲77	▼59
Osaka	Sunny	▲76	▼62
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲70	▼58
Pusan	Sunny	▲82	▼62
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲79	▼60
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲83	▼52
San Francisco	Sunny	▲82	▼57
Seoul	Sunny	▲77	▼54
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲74	▼65
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲78	▼61

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2009

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Super Typhoon Choi-wan (15W) is centered north-northwest of Saipan near 19N143E. Numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms are found up to 220 miles from the center. Convergent winds south and east of Choi-wan are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the Marianas within 140 miles of a line from 13N137E to 13N143E to 16N148E. For more detailed information on Choi-wan, see JTWC bulletins issued under WMO header WTPN21 PGTW and NWS Guam bulletins issued under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. A surface trough west of Wake Island extends southward from 24N163E to 14N161E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are located near the trough axis within an area bounded by a line from 24N161E to 14N157E to 14N167E to 24N165E back to 24N161E. A surface trough extends southeastward from 10N151E through a weak circulation centered west of Pohnpei near 7N154E to end at 2N158E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are located within 150 miles of a line from 5N149E to 10N155E. Trade-wind convergence is producing a large area of scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the Marshall Islands in an area bounded by a line from 14N170E to 9N165E to EQ170E to 6N180 back to 14N170E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:58 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
6:34 AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
1:16 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
7:29 PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:17 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:16 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:15 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:14 PM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:13 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:13 AM	5:42 PM
Saturday	6:11 AM	6:24 PM
Sunday	7:07 AM	7:07 PM
Monday	8:04 AM	7:51 PM
Tuesday	9:00 AM	8:37 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

C0941	5:30am	8:05am	Daily
NW99	6:05am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily
C0943	5:25pm	8:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1, 3, 4, 6

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

C0942	9:25am	1:55pm	Daily
NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily
C0944	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	4, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:50pm	2:30pm+1	3, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	4, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

PRTI seeks to create a G.R.E.A.T. experience

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ESFDB students display their new drug and violence prevention program sponsored by the Pacific Regional Training Institute. From left, Chuck Barcinas, ESFDB GUTS Student Body president Angelique Perez, Kish Doromal, Rhea Constales, Rochelle Masga, ESFDB STUCO president Maricel Atalig, ESFDB DARE Student Body president Vannah Dior Hocog, ESFDB GREAT Student Body president Randee Jo Barcinas, and Manuel Atalig. Not in photo is ESFDB class adviser Mary Rose Lucero and GREAT mentor and PRTI supervisor Edward C. Maratita Jr.

With the help of sponsors, the Pacific Regional Training Institute's Gang Resistance Education and Training program will be established at the Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja this school year 2009-2010.

Eskuelan San Francisco will be the first on Rota and possibly the entire CNMI to implement the pilot program. Guam's San Vicente Catholic School is the first to have the GREAT program implemented for the school year 2008-2009.

GREAT instructor and mentor Edward Maratita Jr. said he wants to give youths a chance to discuss GREAT lessons in a non-typical setting.

With the success of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program and Get Up and Try Something, GUTS, program, and the implementation of the GREAT program, the ESFDB students will have the opportunity to enjoy another drug prevention program.

The GREAT program aims to help students make positive choices and develop lifelong skills. PRTI officers work alongside parents, teachers, counselors and principals to show students the impact and consequences of negative behaviors.

First developed by the Phoenix Police Department, the GREAT program has evolved into a school-based, law enforcement officer-instructed classroom curriculum. With prevention as its primary objective, the program is intended to teach students about the dangers of youth violence, and gang membership.

The program features two curriculums: a six-week plan designed for 4th and 5th graders and a 13-week plan for 6th, 7th and 8th graders. The lessons focus on providing life skills to students to help them avoid using delinquent behavior and violence to solve problems.

"We try to cover as much as we can and teach students about strategies and coping skills they can use when they get older," said Maratita.

"I like it a lot. We learned how to deal with gangs and drugs," said San Vicente Catholic School student Karen Aguon.

The lesson plans were developed through the collaborative efforts of experienced law enforcement officers and specialists in criminology, sociology, psychology, education, health, and curriculum design and are designed to reinforce each other. The lessons are interactive and designed to allow students to practice positive behaviors.

"Students are learning about refusal skills, conflict resolution, anger management and basic decision making skills," said PRTI director Jon Takamura. "This program has helped and we are seeing more parents get involved in the program."

Currently, the program is being used by local and military law enforcement agencies, including throughout all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and the CNMI (Rota).

The success of the GREAT Program is founded on the mutual commitment of law enforcement and educational agencies, united in a common goal to:

■ Provide children with the skills necessary to combat the stresses that set the stage for gang involvement;

■ Provide children with accurate knowledge about gang involvement;

■ Provide children with the skills necessary to resolve conflicts peacefully; and

■ Help children understand the need to set realistic goals.

Aside from the grants given to the program, PRTI received an anonymous donation of $50,000 to continue its efforts in the drug and violence prevention. ***(PR)***

ANGELO!
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MAYOR
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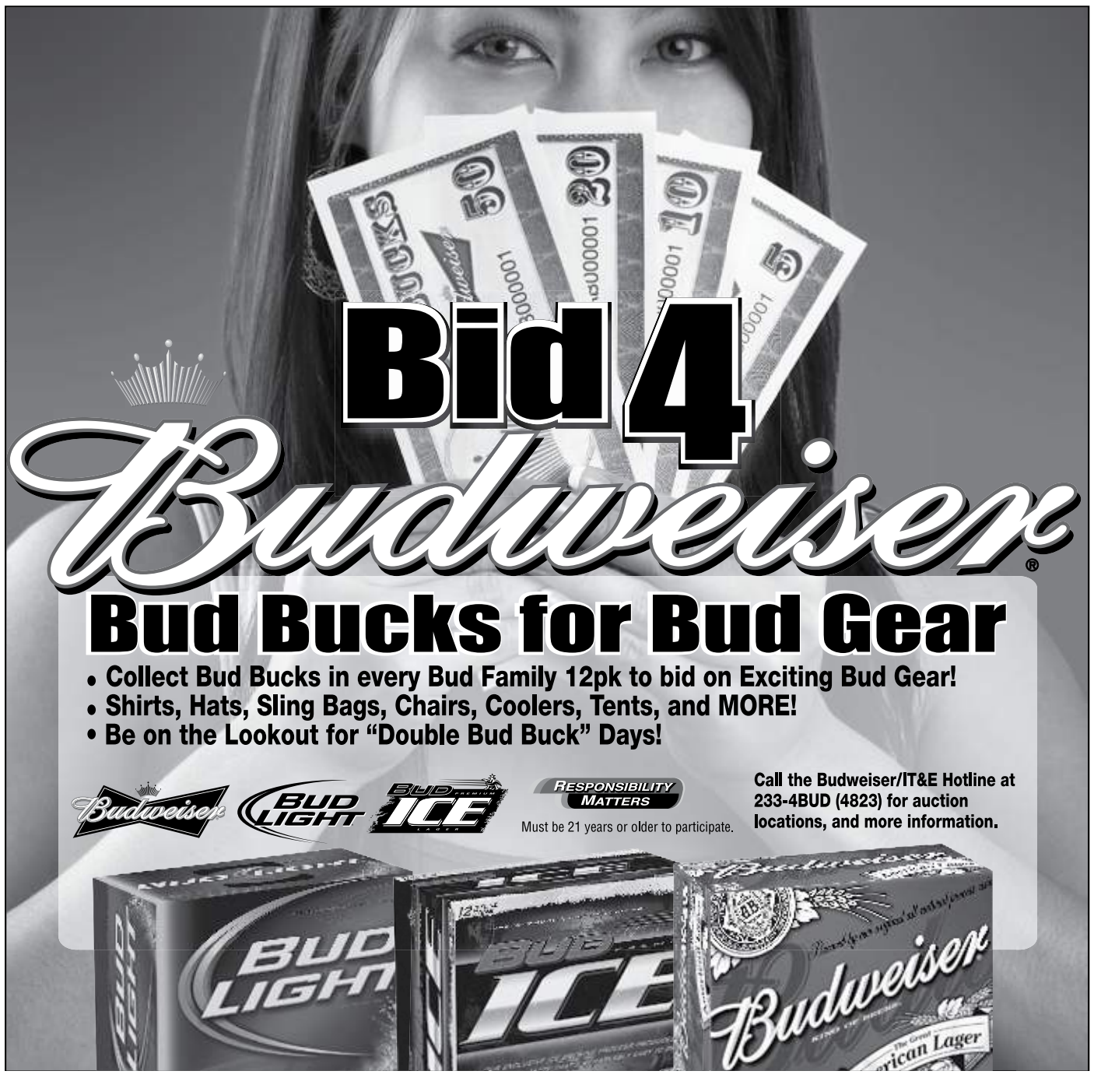
Pick up your Angelo for Mayor yard signs and bumper stickers this Sunday, September 20, 2009 at the Angelo for Mayor Weenie Roast. The suggeted donation is $5 and includes (1) hot dog and drink.

Who: Committee to Elect Angelo O'Connor Villagomez
What: Angelo for Mayor Weenie Roast
Where: Kilili Beach across from Ada Gym
When: Sunday, September 20, 2009, 12:00 - 5:00 PM
Why: Raise funds for the campaign, meet voters, and hand out bumper stickers and yard signs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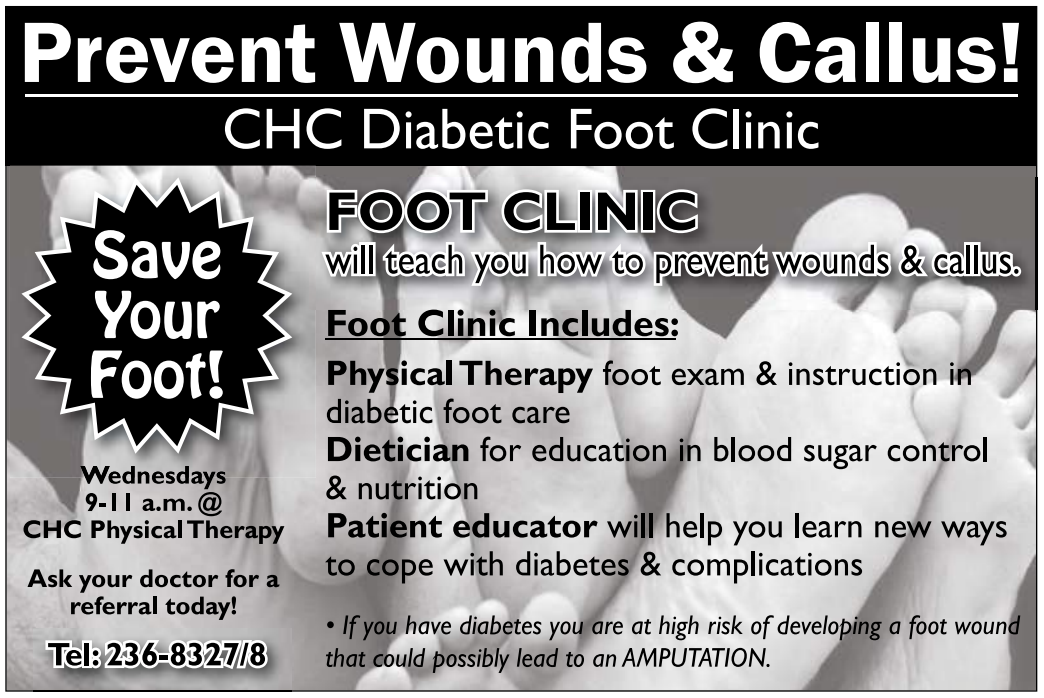
Must be 21 years or older to participate.
Call the Budweiser/IT&E Hotline at 233-4BUD (4823) for auction locations, and more information.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS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Patient educator will help you learn new ways to cope with diabetes & complications
• If you have diabetes you are at high risk of developing a foot wound that could possibly lead to an AMPUTATION.

Child Passenger Safety Week
September 12 – 18, 2009

Child restraints work best when used correctly.

Three out of four child safety seats are improperly installed according to research by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. For proper instructions please visit our child passenger safety website. www.nhtsa.gov/cps

Failure to read and follow the child safety seat instructions, in addition to vehicle owner manual instructions regarding installation, could result in serious injury or death as a result of a failure of the child safety seat to be securely or properly restrained.

NHTSA recommends that children who have outgrown their child safety seats should ride in booster seats until they are at least 8 years old, unless they are 4'9" or taller.

Children under 13 are safest when properly buckled in the back seat of a motor vehicle.

Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort Job Fair in Kagman

The Kagman Komunidat Association would like to announce that Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort will be having a job fair at the Kagman Community Center on Sept. 22, from 5pm to 7pm. Applications and resumes will be accepted for the different departments for Lao Lao's new hotel. Please bring your resume and dress appropriately. ***(PR)***

CREAM reminds of voter registration deadline

The Coalition for Recognition, Equality and Advancement of American Ethnic Minorities, or CREAM, is calling all U.S. citizens of Filipino, Chinese, Korean, Bangladeshi, Japanese descent to register with the CNMI Election Commission which so they can exercise their right to vote in the general elections on Nov. 7. CREAM reminds that today is the deadline of the registration of voters. ***(PR)***

CACP scholarship deadline today

The College Access Challenge Project is currently accepting applications for its CACP 2009-2010 Scholarship Program, which awards up to $1,500 per semester to high school juniors, seniors, and first-year college students with low-income backgrounds.

Application forms, along with supporting documentation, for the CACP scholarship must be submitted no later than 5pm today, Sept. 18, 2009, to the NMC Counseling Programs and Services office in Building I. To download a copy of the application form and scholarship requirements, log on to www.nmcnet.edu.

For more information, contact CACP program manager Leo Pangelinan at 234-5498 ext. 1322 or at leop@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

Notice to all candidates for political office

The Office of the Public Auditor will be conducting presentations on campaign finance and reporting on the islands of Rota, Saipan, and Tinian. The dates and times for each of the presentations are as follows:

Tinian: Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009, 1pm to 3pm, Northern Marianas College-Tinian Instructional Site, Room D

Rota: Friday, Sept. 25, 2009, 5:30pm to 7:30pm, Northern Marianas College-Rota Instructional Site, Building B - Room B2

Saipan: Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2009, 5:30pm to 7:30pm, Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe.

Given the statutory restrictions relating to campaign spending and reporting, all candidates and their treasurers are strongly urged to attend. For more information, call OPA at 322-6481/2. ***(OPA)***

Radio talk show to highlight Covenant

Marianas Agupa, a Chamorro talk show program hosted by Glenn H. Manglona, will feature Vicente N. Santos, vice chairman of the Northern Marianas Political Status Commission, who will be discussing key issues of the Covenant that led to the political union with the United States, on Sept, 19, 2009, Saturday, from 9am to 11am, on Magic 100.3 FM, with simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com. For more information, contact marianasagupa@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Car seat, seatbelt checkpoints

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting car seat inspections and occupant protection child restraint checkpoints on Saipan in the next few days as part of the "Child Passenger Safety Week."

■ On Sept. 18, 2009, the first OP/CR checkpoint will be held on Beach Road, Susupe, by the Multipurpose Center, from 9am to 10:15am. The second setup will be on Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa by New Fresh Market from 7pm to 8:15pm.

■ On Sept. 19, 2009, the first OP/CR checkpoint will be held on Beach Road, Garapan, by Bank Pacific, from 9am to 10:15am. The second set up will be on Beach Road, San Jose, by Morgan Building, from 7pm to 8:15pm.

■ Courtesy car seat inspections will be held at the Joeten, Shopping Center, Susupe parking lot on Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009, from 11am to 4pm.

DPS will also be conducting courtesy car seat inspections and occupant protection child restraint checkpoints on the island of Tinian on Friday, Sept. 18, 2009, along Broadway Road, by the baseball field in San Jose Village, from 11am to 12:15pm. ***(DPS)***

John Gonzales Live schedule

Sept. 16: LIVE – Replays 9/20 and 9/21 @ 7-8 pm

PSS Headstart Program and Early Childhood Intervention Services: Mandates, & Expected Goals to be Achieved in School Year 2010. Guests: Keiko A. Yamagata, director, PSS Headstart Program; Suzanne Lizama, director, PSS Early Childhood Intervention Services.

Sept. 23: LIVE – Replays 9/27 and 9/28 @ 7-8 pm

Beach Road Corridor Revitalization and Adult Business Overlay Zoning Projects. Guests: Henry S. Hofschneider, Saipan Zoning board chairman; Victor Barrett, Saipan Zoning administrator; Joe Limes, Saipan Zoning board member.

Sept. 30: LIVE – Replays 10/4 and 10/5 @ 7-8 pm

Featuring Covenant Party Precinct III candidates' vision and platform. Guests: Felicidad 'Daling' Ogumoro, Edmund S. Villagomez, Jesus Elameto, David R. Maratita, and Henry K. Rabauliman.

Shows air on KSPN Channel 2; LIVE Text: 285-META; LIVE Call: 287-4230; E-mail: johngonzales@pticom.com. ***(PR)***

Census 2010 JVAs extended

In order to allow potential applicants more time to submit applications for the 16 census 2010 positions opening up on October 1, 2009, the Department of Commerce has requested that the Office of Personnel Management extend the deadline for submissions, from the original date of Sept. 5, to the new deadline of Sept. 11, 2009. All potential applicants are encouraged to submit their applications to OPM and direct all pertinent questions regarding the positions to that office. ***(PR)***

NMI gets $200,000 to improve water quality

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded another $200,000 to the Commonwealth under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The money is a Water Quality Management Planning grant, designed to prevent water pollution.

As with most of the Recovery Act money, this grant will puts more dollars into the local economy and put people to work, said U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan yesterday.

"And the money also addresses a larger community need, in this case the need to protect human health and the environment," he added.

A total of $39 million will be awarded nationally to states and territories for Water Quality Management Planning grants, which will keep and create jobs to help prevent water pollution and protect human health and the environment.

The grant awarded to the Northern Mariana Islands can be used to support a broad range of activities, such as setting standards, monitoring the quality of the water, developing plans to restore polluted waters, and identifying ways to protect healthy waters from becoming polluted.

EPA also encourages the use of the grants for more innovative planning activities like developing plans to adapt to climate change, analyzing trends in water availability and use, and creating low-impact development programs.

"With this infusion of Recovery Act funding, CNMI will have more resources for high priority projects and the promotion of water and energy efficiency projects," said Laura Yoshii, acting Regional Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the Pacific Southwest. "This funding will not only make it possible to focus on this critical work, it will also create and save CNMI jobs."

Grants are awarded to state and territory agencies and some of the funds can be awarded to regional and interstate planning organizations.

Congress enacted the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 in February. To date the Northern Mariana Islands has received notice of the availability of more than $113 million, largely through automatic formula distributions built into the law.

Americans can track the flow of ARRA money at the official website, Recovery. gov. ***(PR)***

Local ESGR to tour NMI employers aboard vessel

On Wednesday, Sept. 23, aome local employers will have a chance to participate in a Bosslift when they step aboard the USNS 1st Lt. Jack Lummus, a supply ship, anchored off Saipan.

A Bosslift is an activity coordinated by the Employer Support of Guard and Reserve.

ESGR was organized in 1972, when the national draft ended, as a way to smooth relations and resolve conflicts between employers and the obligations of their employees who serve in the National Guard or Reserves.

By showing employers and community leaders how Guard and Reserve employees train during sessions away from work, Bosslift organizers aim to create better understanding of the impact of service and the demands it makes on those employees.

The program brings employers—and a few reporters—into a base, on an aircraft, onto a ship (in this case) for a few hours to get an inside look at troops working and training to protect our nation.

For more information on this Bosslift or any ESGR Program, contact Capt. Josephine Blas, Public Affairs Director for the ESGR Guam-CNMI Committee at 671-735-0456, or Rose Igitol, CNMI Area Chair, at 670-287-1129. ***(ESGR)***

Kilili working with DHS, FEMA on disaster aid

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan remains in continuous contact with the FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to ensure that residents of the Northern Mariana Islands receive support to recover from Super Typhoon Choi-Wan.

"The U.S. Navy is currently providing a ship and helicopters to check on people living in the northern islands," said Sablan. "Food, water, blankets, tarps, and other survival gear will be provided to Alamagan and Agrihan."

Fourteen people are reported to be living on Alamagan, 4 people on Agrihan. The USNS *Alan Shepard* and two naval helicopters are working with the U.S. Coast Guard to provide humanitarian assistance/ disaster recovery packages to those residents.

Choi-Wan is the first typhoon to hit since Sablan became the Northern Mariana Islands congressman. In response to the threat he immediately established contact with the National Weather Service and with FEMA, which is part of the Department of Homeland Security.

"I know residents of the CNMI know how to prepare for and respond to typhoons," said Sablan. "I want everyone to know that their congressional office is also prepared and ready to respond." ***(PR)***

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NEW ARRIVAL OF CERAMIC TILES, 12"*12" $0.79/pc • 8"*12" $0.52/pc

OTHERS
CEMENT $6.60/BAG
DELIVERY CHARGE TO TINIAN-$3.00/BAG
HOLLOW BLOCKS (CMU) 4"-$0.55/pc • 6"-$0.65/pc • 8"-$0.75/pc
REBAR-$778.00/SHORT TON
GALVALUME ROOF TIN G26 FROM KOREA, BETTER QUALITY & RUST RESISTANCE
25%OFF FOR 2X8 UTILITY LUMBER REGULAR & TREATED
40%OFF FOR OVERSIZED AND DAMAGED MAHOGANY LUMBER

U.S. LUMBER
2X4X20 REGULAR: $6.50
2X4X20 TREATED: $11.30

UTILITY LUMBER REGULAR	UTILITY LUMBER TREATED
2X4X12 - $3.40	2X4X12 - $3.40
2X4X14 - $3.90	2X4X14 - $3.90
2X4X16 - $4.50	2X4X16 - $7.70
2X4X18 - $5.00	2X4X18 - $8.80
2X4X20 - $6.10	2X4X20 - $9.60
2X6X12 - $6.70	2X6X12 - $10.00
2X6X14 - $7.60	2X6X14 - $11.00
2X6X16 - $8.90	2X6X16 - $13.00
2X6X18 - $9.90	2X6X18 - $14.50
2X6X20 - $10.90	2X6X20 - $10.90

5/8" FLYFORM:	$24.00/PC
5/8" PHENOLIC FLYFORM:	$28.30/PC
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MICROL TOYOTA

SPECIALS OF THE WEEK

2005 TOYOTA ECHO 4DR
Stock: R08-022B • License: ADH-691
Mileage: 70447 • Auto, Aqua
~~Price: $7,999~~
Reduced Price $7,599

USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE	REDUCED PRICE
TOYOTA SEDANS								
R08-019F	2005	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	41092	WHITE	ACD-346	~~10,799~~	8,599
R09-010F	2006	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	59360	SILVER	ADO-711	~~11,999~~	9,999
N/A	2007	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	20421	WHITE	ADW-292	12,399	
N/A	2007	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	18092	RED	ACH-404	12,399	
N/A	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	29173	WHITE	ACD-727	11,499	
N/A	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	26200	WHITE	ACD-687	11,499	
N/A	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	25037	BLUE	ACG-450	11,499	
N/A	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	34714	WHITE	ACF-138	10,999	
N/A	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	55010	WHITE	ACE-246	10,999	
GM CARS								
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	~~10,999~~	7,499
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~10,999~~	6,999
U09-045T	2003	VOLKSWAGEN NEW BEETLE 2DR	AUTO	48440	GREEN	ABX-844	~~6,999~~	5,999
GM VAN								
R09-009F	2003	CHEVY EXPRESS VAN 15-PA[SOLD]	AUTO	12674	WHITE	BUS-1079	5,999	
N/A	2007	CHEVY EXPRESS VAN 15-PAX	AUTO	55365	WHITE	BUS-1223	~~18,399~~	$17,499

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TOYOTA ACDelco

NMC to present performance report, seek input

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez will be presenting the college's annual performance report to the college community and the general public Friday next week, Sept. 25, 2009, at 11am. The public is invited to attend.

The report is being presented in accordance with 3 CMC 1316(q), which requires the college to provide a hearing "for the purpose of making the college's work known and investigating and assessing the needs and role of the college in the Commonwealth."

As part of the hearing, students, NMC employees, and community members are asked to submit written comments that identify existing and future educational needs and recommendations with regard to how the college can meet such needs. These submissions will be reviewed and considered during the college's Strategic Planning Summit in November 2009. Written comments will be accepted at the Office of the NMC President up until Oct. 9, 2009.

Immediately after Fernandez's presentation of NMC's performance report, the college will be hosting an accreditation celebration event where lunch will be served and entertainment from various student groups will be featured.

The performance report and the accreditation celebration will both be held at NMC's South Field (where the Charter Day event is usually held) next to the NMC Gym. ***(NMC)***

PREL, UOG connect with students using technology

Starting this semester, the University of Guam will start the pilot use of Elluminate Live as a distance-learning tool for synchronous classes. This project is in collaboration with Pacific Resources for Education and Learning.

The Elluminate software offers the opportunity to reach students in different locations simultaneously over an Internet connection. Although the current test will only allow for 10 students per class, the software can support hundreds of participants concurrently.

The small bandwidth requirements of Elluminate, along with its ease of use and management, make it a very viable educational tool for the Pacific region. For the past couple of years, PREL has been using Elluminate as a standard communication and professional development tool for its offices throughout the Pacific with excellent results.

PREL

Back row, Authur Garbiso, Dr. Matilda Rivera and Dr. Catherine Stoicovy, with some of the students from Elluminate Class: Faye Kaible, Darlene Quichocho, Alan Jamison, and Yolanda Taitano.

"The University of Guam and PREL have a tradition of working together to facilitate the needs of the Pacific regions and offer solutions; our aim is to bring learning opportunities, using the latest educational technologies that the current infrastructure can support. The importance of this latest joint effort resides in the possibility of extending our partnership, while reaching out to the students who are otherwise unable to be physically present in the classroom," said PREL in a statement yesterday. ***(PREL)***

Tilapia cooking contest to take center stage on Rota

NMC

The Northern Marianas College hosts the first-ever "Tilapia Cook-Off Competition" on Rota on Oct. 9, 2009.

The tilapia will take center stage on Oct. 9 as the Northern Marianas College hosts the first-ever "Tilapia Cook-Off Competition" on Rota.

The competition is organized by NMC's Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service's Aquaculture and Fisheries Development program, which aims to advance public awareness, education, research, training and outreach in the fields of aquaculture and fisheries production.

According to Michael Ogo, Aquaculture program coordinator, "The free competition is meant to encourage the consumption and production of homegrown tilapia, which is a very healthy source of protein."

The competition also seeks to expand the tilapia's use not only as local food source, but also as an opportunity for additional income.

"Small scale aquaculture farming for family consumption can be great help to the pockets of families on Rota during difficult economic times," added Ogo. "It's also a great way to promote life skills training, especially for our youth."

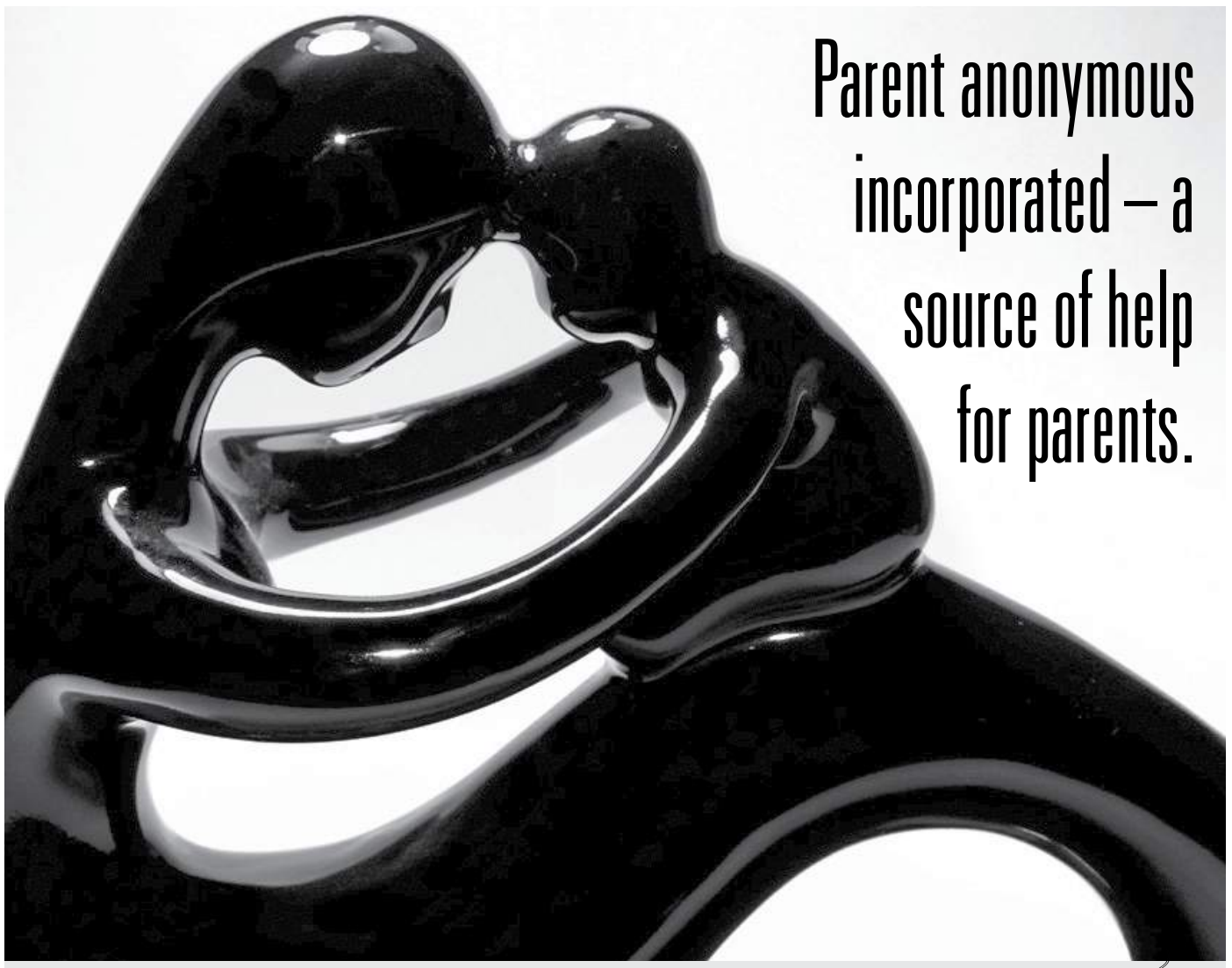
The Tilapia Cook-Off Competition will take place at the Rota Roundhouse from 6pm to 9pm on Oct. 9, 2009. All non-professional chefs on Rota are invited to participate and to showcase their best recipe for homegrown tilapia.

There are separate categories for youths (ages 15-18) and adults (over 18). The best three recipes in each category will win up to $150. Each participant of this free competition will also have a chance to have his or her recipe showcased in a recipe book that NMC-CREES is planning to publish.

The event is supported by NMC-CREES' Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program and 4-H Youth development programs. WSTCO Feeds is a commercial sponsor, and the tilapia for the cook-off is provided by Nicolas Songsong and Joshua Calvo.

Registration for the Tilapia Cook-Off Competition will start on Monday, Sept. 21, 2009. Registration forms should be faxed or delivered to NMC-CREES Rota no later than Monday, Oct. 5, 2009. Participation is free for all. For more information and registration forms, contact Evelyn Mendiola or Dean Manglona at 532-9511.

The NMC-CREES Aquaculture and Fisheries Program is funded by the Smith-Lever program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. ***(NMC)***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Kilili takes gavel in US House of Representatives

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The people of the Northern Mariana Islands reached another milestone in representation in the U.S. House of Representatives yesterday. For the first time ever, a representative of the Northern Mariana Islands presided over the Committee of the Whole House as Speaker pro tempore during debate and voting.

U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan took up the Speaker's gavel at approximately 2:15pm and controlled the flow of legislative action for over an hour and a half, while the H.R. 3246, the Advanced Vehicle Technology Act, was under consideration.

"I am very grateful to Speaker Nancy Pelosi for giving me this opportunity and for allowing the people of the Northern Mariana Islands through their elected representative to stand here today and conduct legislative business," Sablan said after leaving the dais and returning to sit on the floor of the House with the other 440 members.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this video still shot provided by his office, U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan presides over the Committee of the Whole House as Speaker pro tempore during yesterday's debate and voting on H.R. 3246, the Advanced Vehicle Technology Act. Sablan took up the Speaker's gavel at approximately 2:15pm and controlled the flow of legislative action for over an hour and a half.

Sablan said he was nervous, but excited, when contacted by the Speaker's office to take on this responsibility. "As with all my work here in Washington, I want to do well for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. But this is the first time I've had to do well in front of all my House colleagues and in front of a national television audience."

All proceedings of the House of Representatives are carried on the C-Span cable network.

The Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union is just that: a committee composed of all members of the House of Representatives. The business of perfecting bills by offering, debating, and voting on amendments to bills is often conducted in the Committee of the Whole House under less stringent parliamentary rules than those that apply to the House of Representatives itself.

A measure involving taxes or spending is required to be first debated in the Committee of the Whole.

Under Rule XVIII of the House, whenever the House resolves into the Committee of the Whole, the Speaker leaves the chair after appointing a Member, a Delegate, or the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico as the Speaker Pro Tempore, or Speaker for a time.

Video of Sablan presiding over the Committee of the Whole can be seen at www.sablan.house.gov. ***(PR)***

How is your baby growing?

If your child displays any of the following signs of possible developmental delay, talk to your doctor, nurse, or other health care provider about it:

Developmental Health Watch
8 to 12 Months (1 Year)

- Does not crawl
- Drags one side of body while crawling (for over one month)
- Cannot stand when supported
- Does not search for objects that are hidden while he or she watches
- Says no single words ("mama" or "dada")
- Does not learn to use gestures, such as waving or shaking head
- Does not point to objects or pictures
- Does not play peek-a-boo by 8 months
- Experiences a dramatic loss of skills he or she once had

Learn the Signs. Act Early.

You may also contact the **Children's Developmental Assistance Center (C*DAC)** at **664-4830** for a **FREE** developmental screening!

Information adapted from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, Learn the Signs. Act Early.
Supported in part by project H25MC06112 from the MCHB (Title V, Social Security Act), HRSA, DHHS.

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Birthday shoutout going out to Semirina Simram, shown here holding the trophy, who is celebrating her birthday tomorrow, Sept. 19, 2009. Enjoy your day! Greetings coming out from your Team 670 Sakau family.

STUDENT VISITORS

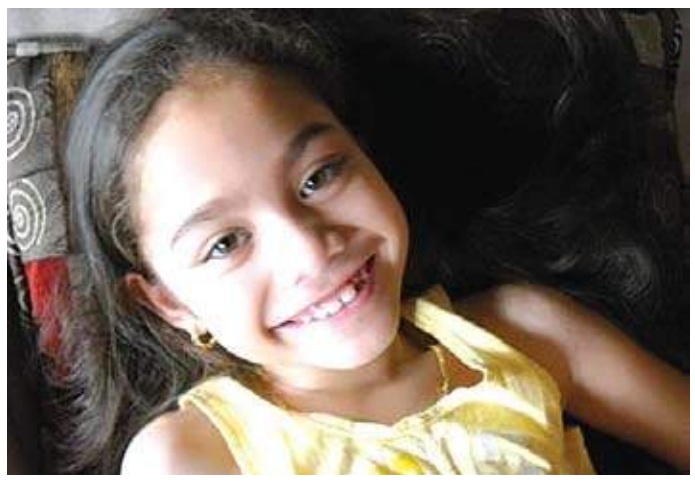
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students of the Northern Marianas College display Pacific Islands crafts at the college's CNMI Archives Office to students of Nihon University. Students from the Japan university visited the college to interact with NMC students and to experience college life on the islands. Early last month, another group of students from Nihon University had also visited the college.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Grandpa Jose Tomokane! We love you! Greetings come from Jun and Celina Joe.



Left, happy birthday greetings go out to Jazmyn Jack! We love you and miss you! Greetings come from Jun and Celina Joe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Alvin Alvarez! Wishing you many more years of good health and prosperity. Love, Marco, Avelyne and Anna.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Birthday greetings going out to James Alexander, who is celebrating his birthday today! May you have a wonderful and enjoyable day and many more to come. Love always, your parents and sisters, Regnas, and Chosin A-56.

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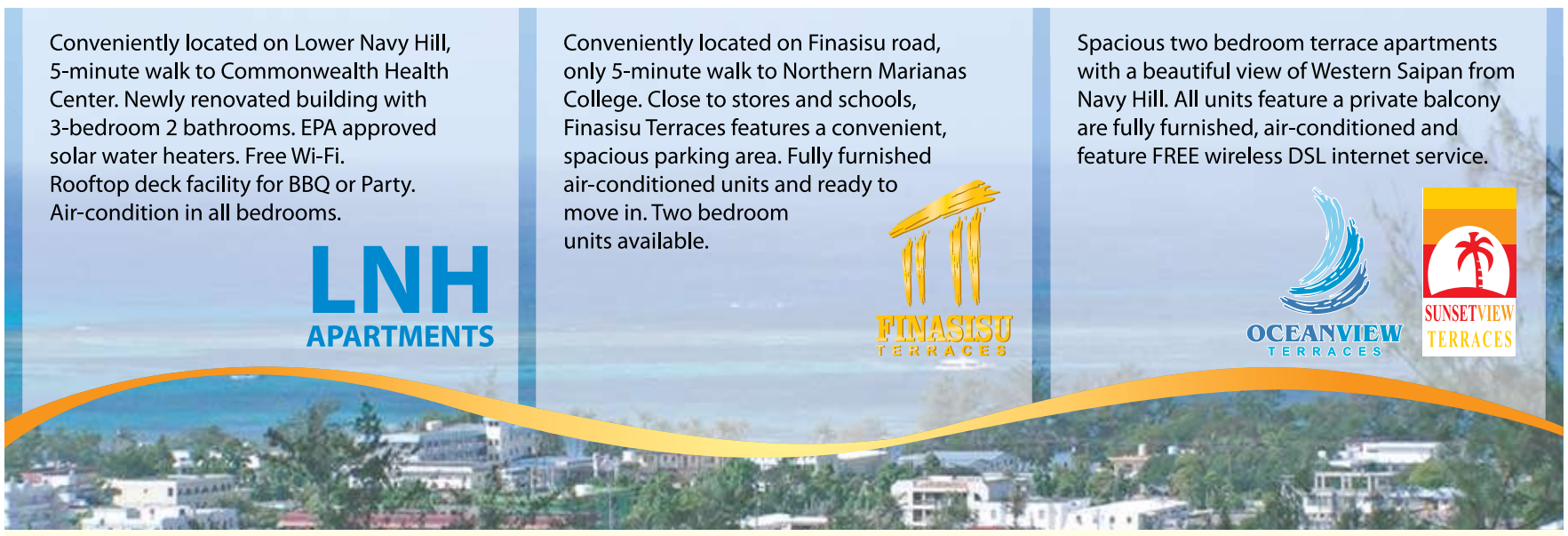
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Business

First-time jobless claims expected to rise

WASHINGTON (AP)—The number of newly laid-off workers seeking unemployment benefits likely rose last week, evidence that jobs remain scarce.

Wall Street economists forecast that first-time claims for unemployment insurance rose to a seasonally-adjusted 555,000 last week from 550,000 the previous week, according to a survey by Thomson Reuters. The number of people remaining on the jobless benefit rolls also is expected to increase slightly, to 6.1 million from 6.09 million.

The Labor Department report scheduled for Thursday comes even as the Federal Reserve said Wednesday that production by the nation's factories, mines and utilities increased for the second straight month in August, the latest sign the economy is recovering. Inflation, meanwhile, remains essentially nonexistent, as prices rose only modestly last month.

Still, the economy isn't improving fast enough to spur greater hiring. Jobless benefit claims have trended down since topping 670,000 in early April, but remain far above the 325,000 per week associated with a healthy economy.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke on Tuesday said the recession is likely over, though he noted that the economy isn't likely to grow fast enough to lower unemployment anytime soon. Most economists expect the jobless rate to top 10 percent next year, up from its current 9.7 percent.

A separate report Thursday is expected to show that new home construction rose in August after dipping a month earlier, as builders regroup from the worst downturn in decades.

Manufacturers leading early stages of recovery

WASHINGTON (AP)—Signaling that manufacturers are leading the economy into a recovery, output from the nation's factories, mines and utilities posted widespread gains in August.

In a further dose of good news, inflation remained essentially nonexistent as prices scarcely rose last month.

The August gains in industrial production marked the second straight increase after the global recession dried up the appetites of customers worldwide. Output rose 0.8 percent, the Federal Reserve said Wednesday, beating analysts' estimates.

In part, the improvement reflected auto sales that were boosted by the government's now-ended Cash for Clunkers program. But analysts were impressed that output rose broadly across industries.

"Vehicles are not the whole story," Nigel Gault, chief U.S. economist at IHS Global Insight, said in a note to clients.

Gault noted that production rose in five out of 10 categories of durable goods, including machinery and electrical equipment.

The pace of growth is expected to slow later this year. That's partly because the stimulative effect of the clunkers program, which issued rebates for people who traded in older gas-guzzlers for new, fuel-efficient models, will fade.

Google to reincarnate digital books as paperbacks in deal

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. (AP)—Google Inc. is giving 2 million books in its digital library a chance to be reincarnated as paperbacks.

As part of a deal announced Thursday, Google is opening up part of its index to the maker of a high-speed publishing machine that can manufacture a paperback-bound book of about 300 pages in under five minutes. The new service is an acknowledgment by the Internet search leader that not everyone wants their books served up on a computer or an electronic reader like those made by Amazon.com Inc. and Sony Inc.

The "Espresso Book Machine" has been around for several years already, but it figures to become a hotter commodity now that it has access to so many books scanned from some of the world's largest libraries. And On Demand Books, the Espresso's maker, potentially could get access to even more hard-to-find books if Google wins court approval of a class-action settlement giving it the right to sell out-of-print books.

"This is a seminal event for us," said Dane Neller, On Demand Books' chief executive, as he oversaw a demonstration of the Espresso Book Machine Wednesday at Google's Mountain View, Calif. headquarters.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Eastman Kodak in deal with KKR to raise capital

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP)—Eastman Kodak Co. said Wednesday it expects to raise up to $700 million through a series of debt sales in an effort to shore up its balance sheet. The photography products pioneer, still struggling to find its footing in the digital era, said private equity fund Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. has committed to purchase up to $400 million in senior secured notes due in 2017 in exchange for two seats on Kodak's board of directors. Kodak also agreed to issue KKR warrants to purchase up to 53 million Kodak common shares.

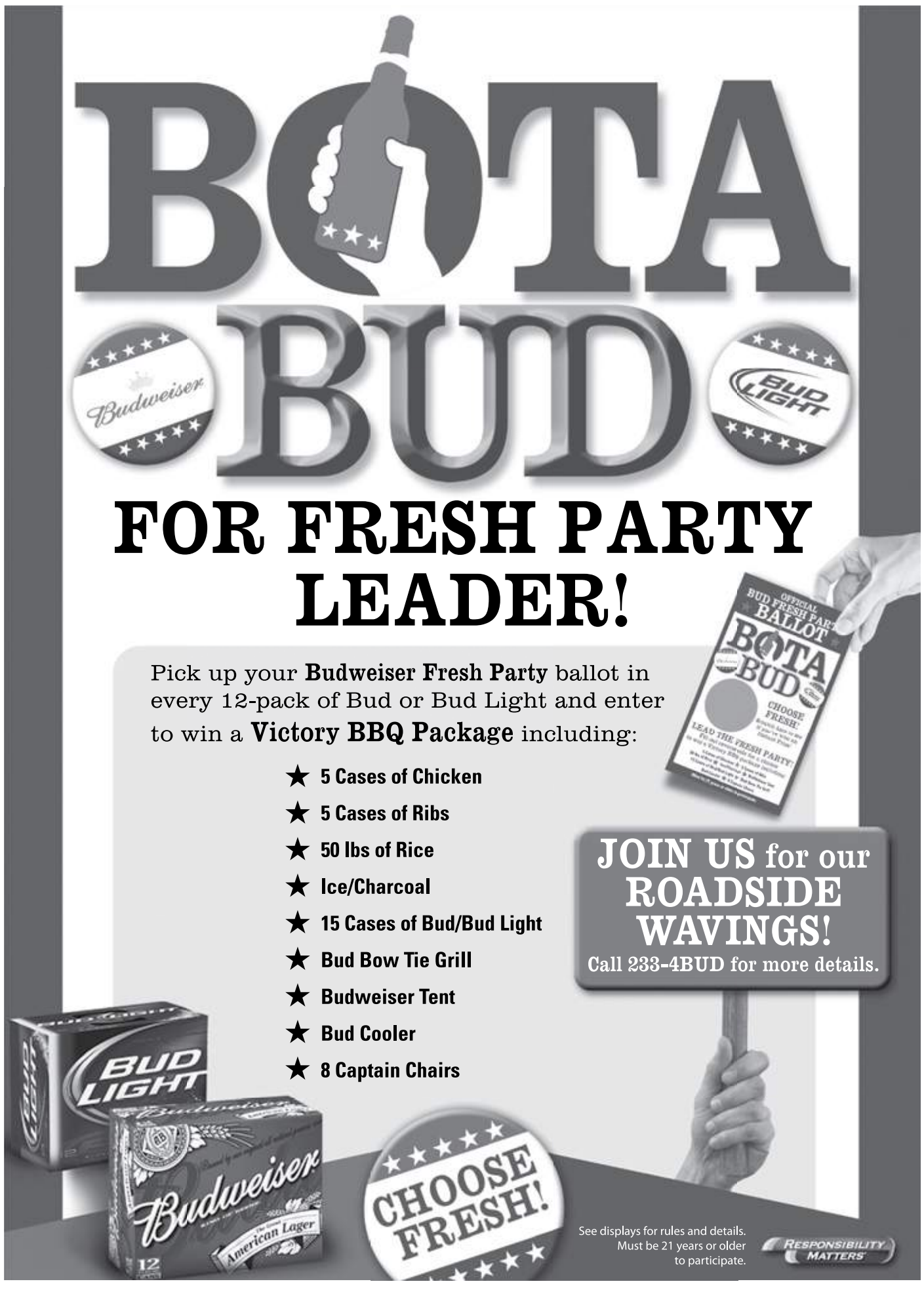
Canada won't block Nortel sale to Ericsson

TORONTO (AP)—Canada's industry minister said Wednesday the government won't block the $1.1 billion sale of Nortel Networks' wireless division to Sweden's Ericsson.

Canada could have blocked the sale on national security grounds or in an Investment Canada review, which can be undertaken if the book value of the asset exceeds $292 million. Industry Minister Tony Clement said there is no basis for a federal review on national security grounds and the book value of the assets is $170 million. In addition, Ericsson is planning to offer jobs to 800 Nortel workers in Canada.

Skype founders file lawsuit against eBay

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A company owned by the founders of Skype has filed a copyright infringement suit against the Internet phone service and parent eBay Inc.—an action that could crimp eBay's plans to sell Skype for about $2 billion to a group of private investors. Joltid Ltd., owned by Skype founders Janus Friis and Niklas Zennstrom, filed the suit in the U.S. District Court of Northern California. The complaint alleges Skype violated an agreement over the use of critical peer-to-peer communication technology that Skype licenses from Joltid for use in its software, which routes phone calls over the Web. In addition to Skype and eBay, the lawsuit ratchets up the stakes by also naming as defendants all of the private investors who have agreed to buy Skype.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RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS

Nation

Baucus outlines health plan without GOP support

WASHINGTON (AP)—His calls for compromise rebuffed by Republicans, the Democratic chairman of the Senate Finance Committee unveiled sweeping legislation Wednesday to remake the nation's costly health care system largely along the lines outlined by President Barack Obama.

Sen. Max Baucus' proposal, months in the making, drew quick criticism from liberals who said his vision was too cramped and from Republicans who deemed it overly expansive. Yet whatever its fate, its mere release marked a critical turning point in Congress' long and tumultuous debate over Obama's top domestic priority.

The Finance Committee is to meet next week to vote on the plan, and after combining it with another panel's bill, Majority Leader Harry Reid intends to begin debate on the Senate floor late this month or early October. Across the Capitol, Speaker Nancy Pelosi has been waiting to see Baucus' health care prescription before advancing companion legislation toward a vote by the House.

"We cannot let this opportunity pass," Baucus, D-Mont., said as he outlined a $856 billion plan designed to protect millions who have unreliable insurance or no coverage at all, at the same time restraining the explosive growth of medical costs.

Congressional budget experts estimated the proposal would reduce the ranks of the uninsured by 29 million over a decade. They also predicted the plan would trim federal deficits by $49 billion over the same period and suggested savings in the range of hundreds of billions of dollars might result for the decade that follows.

AP
Senate Finance Committee Chairman Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont. gestures during his news conference on health care legislation, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2009, Capitol Hill in Washington.

Many of the bill's major provisions would be delayed until 2013, after the next presidential election.

But the impact of one of the key concessions Baucus made in a so-far-unsuccessful search for Republican support—allowing cooperatives, rather than the federal government, to sell insurance in competition with private industry—was judged harshly. "They seem unlikely to establish a significant market presence in many areas of the country," wrote Douglas W. Elmendorf, head of the Congressional Budget Office.

Supporters claim the co-ops would compete effectively with private companies and help hold down the cost of insurance, but CBO's assessment is likely to re-energize advocates of direct government competition.

Medical examiner says Yale student was suffocated

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—A Yale graduate student found stuffed in the wall of a research center had been suffocated, the medical examiner reported Wednesday as police awaited DNA tests on evidence taken from a lab technician who worked in the building.

Le

Police call Raymond Clark III a "person of interest" in the slaying of Annie Le. Authorities hoped to compare DNA taken from Clark's hair, fingernails and saliva with more than 250 pieces of evidence collected at the crime scene on the Ivy League campus and from Clark's Middletown, Conn., apartment.

Police served two search warrants—for DNA from Clark and for items in his apartment—late Tuesday. They served two more Wednesday morning, for more items from the apartment and for Clark's Ford Mustang, Police Chief James Lewis said.

Investigators said they expect to determine within days whether Clark should be charged in the killing. He was escorted in handcuffs from his apartment and released early Wednesday into the custody of his attorney, police said.

Lewis said Clark and several other people are under constant police surveillance. He said police expect to seek an arrest warrant for anyone whose DNA matches evidence at the crime scene.

FBI searches home of Colorado man in terror probe

AURORA, Colo. (AP)—Federal agents on Wednesday searched the home of a suburban Denver man identified by law enforcement as having a possible link to al-Qaida, carting away several boxes of evidence.

FBI special agent Kathleen Wright confirmed that agents had a search warrant for the home of Najibullah Zazi. Residents of neighboring apartments were evacuated as a precaution, Wright said.

Zazi denies that he's a central figure in a terrorism investigation that fed fears of a possible bomb plot and led to several police raids in New York City on Monday.

It wasn't immediately known if Zazi was at home at the time of the raid. His attorney, Arthur Folsom, was not at his Denver office and couldn't immediately be reached for comment.

Agents left Zazi's apartment with at least six boxes.

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Division of Fish and Wildlife

SAIPAN SITES:

Garapan Fishing Base to Hafa Adai
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Susupe Beach
Micro Beach
(Hyatt to Smiling Cove)
Tanapag Beach
Lao Lao Beach
Cow Town
Pau Pau Beach
Tank Beach
TSL Plaza Beach
Jeffrey's Beach
Wing Beach
Old Man By The Sea
Makaka Beach
(Fiesta Resort to Hafa Adai Hotel)

*Note: These lists were updated Sept. 16. New groups and sites are added daily.
Visit BEAUTIFY CNMI's Web site: www.beautifycnmi.org for updates and contacts.

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Hofstra University student recants rape story

EAST MEADOW, N.Y. (AP)—Four New York men were released from jail Wednesday and authorities dismissed charges that they gang-raped a Hofstra University student after the 18-year-old woman recanted her story.

Felipe

"I'm so happy the truth finally came out," said Stalin Felipe, 19, outside the Nassau County Jail in East Meadow where he and the other three had just been released Wednesday night.

Nassau County District Attorney Kathleen Rice said in a statement late Wednesday that the woman told law enforcement officials that the sex encounter in a dormitory men's room was consensual.

Rice said a county judge then dismissed the charges against the four men and ordered their release. She said her office has launched a criminal investigation into the woman's statements.

The woman had accused five men, including a Hofstra student, of taking her cell phone at an on-campus nightclub and luring her into a dormitory men's room and sexually assaulting her early Sunday.

Four men were arrested within hours and arraigned on rape and other charges. Felipe, Rondell Bedward, 21, Jesus Ortiz, 19, all of the Bronx, and Kevin Taveras, 20, of Brentwood, faced 25 years in prison if convicted.

"I'm so happy everything worked out in our favor," said Romilo Taveras, who picked up his son outside the jail. "That's no way to treat people."

Kevin Taveras said he was looking forward to a hot shower.

Felipe, who heard the news while half asleep in his jail cell, said he didn't have any hard feelings toward his accuser. "I'm just happy to be free."

He declined to discuss what occurred Sunday morning.

Bedward, who had been suspended by the university after his arrest, declined to speak with reporters outside jail.

ACROSS THE NATION

Napolitano lauds successes in US border security

LAS CRUCES, N.M. (AP)—The U.S. and Mexico are making headway in the ongoing struggle to curb the flow of illegal drugs, cash and weapons across the border, U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said Wednesday. Napolitano, who spoke at a public policy conference at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, said "historic" agreements with Mexican President Felipe Calderon's government and increases in enforcement are helping with security issues in the U.S., and curbing the flow of drugs into the U.S. and weapons and cash into Mexico. "We stand at a historic moment," she said. "We have the opportunity to work with the government of Mexico to make significant advancements in the safety and security of the border area and the safety and security of Mexico in the very courageous battle President Calderon is fighting there."

Study: 8 million Americans consider suicide

WASHINGTON (AP)—More than 8 million Americans seriously consider suicide each year, according to a new government study. About 32,000 suicides occur in the United States each year, but a new study by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration indicates that many more give the idea serious thought. The new SAMHSA report is based on a survey of 46,190 people aged 18 and older. In the past, the question about suicide had only been asked of people who reported major depression but in 2008 it was added to all questionnaires.

Bone fragment found at home of CA kidnap suspects

ANTIOCH, Calif. (AP)—Police said Wednesday they found a bone fragment on the property of a Northern California couple charged with kidnapping a little girl and hiding her in their backyard for 18 years. Other fragments were found on property next door. Investigators collected the fragments as part of a search for any evidence that might link Phillip and Nancy Garrido to two other child abductions in the 1980s. An earlier search of their next door neighbor's backyard also yielded a bone fragment that police say is likely human but tests still must be completed.

DC sniper mastermind's execution set for November

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—A Virginia judge on Wednesday set a Nov. 10 execution date for John Allen Muhammad, mastermind of the 2002 sniper attacks in the Washington, D.C., area that left 10 dead. Prince William County Circuit Judge Mary Grace O'Brien picked a Tuesday for the execution so that courts would be open the day before in case of any last-minute legal appeals. Jonathan Sheldon, Muhammad's attorney, said Muhammad would appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court and ask Gov. Timothy M. Kaine for clemency.

Police: Mom stabs 2 young daughters at Calif. home

WESTMINSTER, Calif. (AP)—A 5-year-old girl is in a medically induced coma after her mother allegedly stabbed her and her 3-year-old sister in Southern California. Officers responding to a 911 call Wednesday morning found the unconscious 5-year-old with stab wounds to the chest inside a Westminster home. In another room they found her 38-year-old mother, Thuy Le, clutching her younger daughter, both covered in blood. Officer Van Woodson says the family was staying at the home of Le's cousin when the mother attacked her children then stabbed herself. Woodson says the 5-year-old, who was initially on life support, is now in a coma with her chances of survival described as grave.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening date: September 18, 2009 **Closing date: October 23, 2009**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancies:

1 (one) Executive Director
1 (one) Staff Engineer

Employment Application must be accompanied with a first copy of all required diploma/certificates, original copy of recent police record not more that six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 26 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. The deadline for submission of applications is no later than ***4:30 p.m., Friday, October 23, 2009.***

Minimum Qualifications:

Executive Director: Possess a four (4) year degree from an accredited U.S. University with no less than ten (10) years of progressively responsible experience in either of the following field: management, engineering, financial, aviation and/or maritime industry. Must have managerial and leadership experience acceptable to the Board of Directors.

Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction from any jurisdiction.

Staff Engineering: Possess a four (4) year degree in civil engineering from an accredited U.S. university with no less than seven (7) years of progressively responsible experience in a professional engineering level of which three (3) years pertain to supervisory experience.

Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction from any jurisdiction.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing, or may be downloaded by visiting CPA's website at www.cpa.gov.mp. For more information, please contact the Executive Director by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

/s/ **EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.**
Executive Director

Are you 18 years or older?

Have you been providing unpaid services to family members?

Been **dependent** on the **income of another family member** but no longer supported by that income and are you **unemployed or underemployed** and experiencing difficulty **obtaining or upgrading employment?**

If you answer "YES" to all of these questions contact WIA at 664-1704/5 7& 8. You may be able to qualify for services as a Displaced Homemaker under WIA's Dislocated Worker Funding Program. All other program eligibility requirements applies.

This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration

NOTIFICATION OF WIA DISLOCATED WORKER FUNDING PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

CATEGORY A: GENERAL DISLOCATED WORKERS. To qualify, an individual must meet the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment;
2. Is eligible for or has exhausted entitlement to unemployment compensation; OR has been employed or attached to the workforce for a duration sufficient to demonstrate to WIA, but is not eligible for unemployment compensation due to insufficient earnings or having performed services for an employer that were not covered under a state unemployment compensation law; and
3. Is unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation.

CATEGORY B: PLANT CLOSURE. To qualify, an individual must meet one of the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment as a result of any permanent closure of, or any substantial layoff at, a plant, facility, or enterprise;
2. Is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close within 180 days; or
3. For purposes of eligibility to receive services other than training, intensive or supportive services under WIA, is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close.

CATEGORY C: SELF-EMPLOYED or UNEMPLOYED. To qualify, an individual must meet the following criteria:

1. Was self-employed (including employment as a farmer, a rancher, or a fisherman) but is unemployed as a result of general economic conditions in the community in which the individual resides or because of natural disasters.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT WIA AT 664-1704;1707; 1708 OR 1757 or email us at gov.wia@pticom.com. All other program eligibility applies.

This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration.

Asia

RP ruling party picks presidential bet

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The political party of Philippine president Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has chosen the country's defense secretary as the party's candidate in next year's presidential election.

Gilberto Teodoro, 45, a Harvard-trained lawyer and former member of the House of Representatives, was chosen by the ruling Lakas-Kampi party to run against his cousin, opposition Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III.

Aquino announced last week that he was seeking the presidency as the Liberal Party candidate to continue the legacy of his mother, Corazon Aquino, who became a democracy icon in the Philippines for leading the revolt that toppled dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

The massive outpouring of sympathy for Aquino after her death from colon cancer last month prompted supporters of her son—a three-term congressman and economist by training—to urge him to run for president.

Arroyo is scheduled to step down after serving more than nine years in June 2010. She is not allowed to seek re-election.

Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro gestures during a meeting of the Lakas-Kampi party in Mandaluyong, east of Manila, Philippines on Wednesday Sept. 16, 2009.

AP

Other major aspirants for next year's presidential race include Sen. Manny Villar and deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Teodoro promised to re-examine the constitution and to push for structural reforms to end what he called "a dysfunctional political structure."

Karzai leading Afghan vote with 54 percent

KABUL (AP)—Afghan officials issued full preliminary results Wednesday showing President Hamid Karzai got 54.6 percent of the vote in last month's election, a result that could be annulled by mounting fraud allegations. European Union election monitors say fraud is indicated in more than a quarter of the 5.6 million votes counted.

The Aug. 20 vote has been so tainted by reports of ballot-box stuffing and questionable tallies that many expect the final results to vary widely from the preliminary count after fraudulent ballots are thrown out.

If enough votes are thrown out for Karzai to drop below 50 percent, it will force him into a two-man runoff with top challenger Abdullah Abdullah, a former foreign minister who has 27.7 percent of the vote. The preliminary count gave Karzai 3.1 million votes to Abdullah's 1.6 million.

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETINGS

National Historic Preservation Act meetings to support the proposed U.S. Marine Corps Relocation Project will be held to involve the public in the identification and possible treatments of historic properties on Tinian. The first meeting will be held at Tinian Elementary School on Tuesday September 22, 2009 starting at 8:00PM. A second public meeting on this subject will be held on Saipan at the Coastal Resources Management conference room on Wednesday September 23, 2009 starting at 8:00PM. For those who can't attend, we welcome your written comments sent to:

Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific
Environmental Planning (Code EV23)
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100
Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Division of Historic Preservation
Department of Community & Cultural Affairs
Caller Box 10007, Airport Road, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 664-2120 to 24 • Fax: 664-2139
Email: cnmihpo@vzpacifica.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Department of Community & Cultural Affairs
Division of Historic Preservation
Historic Preservation Fund Grant
Proposed Work Goals for FY 2009

The Division of Historic Preservation (HPO) under the auspices of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, anticipates the receipt of approximately $401,879 from the U.S. National Park Services for Fiscal Year 2009. This funding is provided to support the Commonwealth's Historic Preservation program and related community activities.

Prior to the submission of the grant application, the Division of Historic Preservation Office would like to solicit the community's input or comments on what priorities, concerns, projects, and activities it would like to undertake relating to Historic Preservation.

We need your comments particularly on such aspects as:

1). What do you think we should be focusing more of this year?
2). What particular community projects do you believe is important that we should try to fund?
3). What topics should we focus when publishing our ethnographic or archaeological books?
4). What particular areas do you want our office to concentrate on surveying or in the identification of cultural materials?
5). What aspects of the program do you think we should strengthen?

The following are examples of work goals that are proposed for FY2009. We would like to know what you think about them.

- Conducting a more intensive survey on Carolinas area on Tinian.
- Reprinting all HPO's archaeological and ethnographic collection
- Implementing and maintaining its Geographic Information System
- Nominating significant sites to the National Register of Historic Places
- Provide a symposium on historic preservation policies and identification of cultural materials
- Educate the CNMI's children about historic preservation through school visits, lectures and field trips
- Work with ABPP grant recipient on Underwater trail
- Other Underwater investigations with agencies and trainnees
- Partner with MARC on exploration of Northern Islands surveys

Interested individuals are invited to submit their comments to the HPO in writing no later than September 25, 2009. Written comments should be address to the Director, CNMI HPO, Division of Historic Preservation, Dept. of Community and Cultural Affairs, P. O. Box 500090 CK, Saipan, MP 96950. It may also be faxed to our office at 664-2139 or sent through e-mail to hpoarch@pticom.com. Please visit our office located on Airport Road, beween the former MVA Office and the LSG Building should you have any questions.

In addition to submitted written comments, our office would also like to undertake a formal public hearing to listen to your concerns and ideas about the historic preservation grant and possible projects or activities. The following is a schedule in this effect:

Island	Location	Date	Time
Rota	Round House	9/16/09	6:30 p.m.
Tinian	Tinian Youth Center	9/22/09	6:30 p.m.
Saipan	CRM Conference Room	9/24/09	6:30 p.m.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. We look forward to hearing your comments and ideas. Your input and participation is extremely valuable.

/s/ Pedro (Roy) C. Sablan Jr.
Director, CNMI Historic Preservation Office

Concurred by:
/s/ Melvin o. Faisao September 11, 2009
Secretary, Community & Cultural Affairs

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND
"Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members"

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its ***Regular*** meeting on **Tuesday, September 22, 2009** at **9:00 a.m.** at the **NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.**

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting:
  - 1. June 4, 2009
  - 2. July 1, 2009
  - 3. August 6, 2009

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REPORTS
- A. Report of the Chairman
  - 1. ROC No. 09-009
- B. Report of the Administrator / Correspondence
  - 1. ROA No. 09-009
    - a) Status Updates
- C. Report of the Comptroller
  - 1. Financials
    - a) NMIRF
    - b) GHLITF
    - c) WCC
  - 2. Drawdown Requests
  - 3. CGECU Status Update
- D. Reports of the Committees
  - 1. Finance & Investment Committee
  - 2. Operations & Personnel Committee
  - 3. Policies, Programs & Legislative Review Committee
  - 4. GH&L and WCC Committee
- E. Reports of the Investment Director
  - 1. Status of Investment/Market Condition
  - 2. Report of Housing Loan Program
- F. Communications
  - 1. Internal Auditor Reports
- G. Other Matters

IV. LEGAL MATTERS
- A. Reports of the Legal Counsels
  - 1. Report of the Board Counsel
    - a) Lawsuit
      - i) Report of Negotiation Panel
    - b) Other Legal Matters
  - 2. Report of the In-house Counsel
    - a) Update on Administrative Appeals
  - 3. Report of the Hearing Officer

V. OLD BUSINESS
- 1. BR 08-001 Matters
  - a) Pension Application Matters
  - b) P.L. 15-98 / Refunds
  - c) Disability Applicants
- 2. Board Resolution – Non-Recognition of Post-Retirement Adoptions (BR09-002)
- 3. Board Resolution – Cease of Refunds (BR09-003)
- 4. Board Resolution – Proportionate Pensions
- 5. Budgets
  - a) FY 2009
  - b) FY 2010
- 6. Rota Property
- 7. Administrative Hearing Officer Contract

VI. NEW BUSINESS
- 1. Proposed Amendments to the NMIRF Rules and Regulations–Rules 4.05, 4.06 and 7.03
- 2. Proposed Amendments to the NMIRF Rules and Regulations–Rule 4.02
- 3. Tinian Office Space Lease
- 4. Certification and Adoption of Proposed Amendments to the MHLP Rules and Regulations
- 5. Certification and Adoption of the Proposed Amendments to the GHIP Rules and Regulations
- 6. Civil Action No. 00-0409E
- 7. Civil Action No. 06-0030-GA (CA 04-0578C)
- 8. Timothy Lord's August 25, 2009 Offer
- 9. Collections Attorney
- 10. NMIRF Legal Counsel JVA
- 11. Election of Officers
- 12. APAFS-PRIC Conference
- 13. IFEBP Annual Conference

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS
- A. Announcements
- B. Next Meeting
- C. Adjournment

/s/ PEDRO Q. DELA CRUZ
ACTING CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ASIAN BRIEFS

4 suspected militants killed in Indonesian raid

SOLO, Indonesia (AP)—Police hunting for suspects in Jakarta hotel bombings raided a hideout in central Indonesia, sparking gunfire and an explosion Thursday that left four suspected militants dead, officials said. Three alleged terrorists also were captured. A counterterrorism official said the dead included alleged bomb-maker Bagus Budi Pranato. The captured militants included a pregnant woman who was being treated at a local hospital, national police spokesman Nanan Sukarna said. Her condition was stable.

Pakistan makes another arrest in Swat Valley

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan killed 10 insurgents and arrested a militant commander accused of beheading troops in the northwestern Swat Valley, notching up more successes in an offensive that has been welcomed at home and in the U.S., an army spokesman said Thursday. Sher Muhammad Qasab was captured this week at an undisclosed location in the valley, said Col. Akhtar Abbas. Pakistan's army launched an offensive in April after militants seized control of much of the valley in the country's volatile northwest. It has cleared much of Swat and killed more than 1,800 insurgents, although sporadic militant attacks continue.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Slain al-Qaida suspect's mother asks to see body

MOMBASA, Kenya (AP)—The mother of a top al-Qaida fugitive who was killed in a U.S. raid in Somalia demanded Wednesday to see her son's body while a Somalia-based group claimed him as their leader and confirmed his death. Saleh Ali Saleh Nabhan, a 30-year-old Kenyan, was wanted for the 2002 car bombing of a beach resort in Kenya and a failed attempt to shoot down an Israeli airliner. Three senior U.S. officials familiar with Monday's commando raid confirmed he was killed. Aisha Abdallah told The Associated Press she wants "to see the body of my son before it is buried."

UK teens cleared of Columbine-inspired murder plot

LONDON (AP)—Two British teens obsessed with the Columbine shootings were acquitted Wednesday of charges they plotted a copycat massacre, after a jury rejected the notion that diary entries outlining a similar attack were anything more than a fantasy. The jury took only 45 minutes to clear Ross McKnight, 16, and Matthew Swift, 18, of plotting an attack at their high school just east of the northwestern English city of Manchester on the 10th anniversary of the U.S. killings. The 12-member panel, made up of seven women and five men, accepted the teens' testimony that they never intended to harm anyone. Jurors took the unusual step of waiting outside a Manchester court to wave and smile at a defense attorney after the verdicts.

Gunmen kill 10 at Mexico drug treatment center

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)—Gunmen burst into a drug treatment center in the northern Mexican border city of Ciudad Juarez and shot to death 10 people, the second such mass killing this month.

Police say nine men and one woman were killed in the attack just before midnight Tuesday at the Anexo de Vida center in Mexico's most violent city. Two people were seriously wounded.

Enrique Torres, a spokesman for Chihuahua state police, said Wednesday the identities of the gunmen and the motive for the attack have not yet been established.

But officials have said in the past that drug gangs may be using treatment centers to recruit dealers, or may be targeting them to eliminate rivals.

AP

Soldiers guard the crime scene where two men were shot to death in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2009.

Most of the victims are believed to have been recovering addicts staying at the facility.

"Why? Why them?" said Pilar Macias, weeping after she identified the body of her brother, Juan Carlos Macias, 39. "He was recovering, he wanted to get back on the right track and they didn't let him, they didn't give him a chance."

"This is going to kill my mother," Macias said. "She's very sick and this is going to kill her."

Macias said the mother had encouraged her son to enter the facility for treatment of his cocaine addiction three months ago.

Maria Hernandez also had come to the state prosecutor's office to identify the body of her 25-year son.

Gazans welcome UN war crimes report

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Gazans who lost loved ones during Israel's winter offensive against Hamas militants said Wednesday they're taking some solace from a U.N. report that accuses both sides of committing war crimes, but they're skeptical anyone will be brought to justice.

In Israel, the findings of the U.N. team sparked outrage and deepened a sense that the Jewish state is being treated unfairly by the international community.

While the U.N. investigation labeled Hamas rocket attacks on Israeli towns as war crimes, the bulk of the findings focused on Israeli actions during the three-week war.

The report echoed findings in a string of human rights reports released in recent months, but it could carry more weight, both because it was authored by a widely respected former war crimes prosecutor, Richard Goldstone, and because at least in theory it opens the way to charges against Israel before the International Criminal Court.

For technical and political reasons, however, putting Israelis or Palestinians on trial would be difficult under the present system of international justice.

Both Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers rejected the U.N. team's allegations. Israel's government rebuffed the report's call for an independent inquiry and immediately began a diplomatic offensive to block any attempt to bring its soldiers before the Netherlands-based court.

US military closes largest detention camp in Iraq

CAMP BUCCA, Iraq (AP)—The U.S. military on Wednesday closed Camp Bucca, an isolated desert prison that was once its largest lockup in Iraq, as it moves to release thousands of detainees or transfer them to Iraqi custody before the end of the year.

The sprawling facility just north of the Kuwaiti border has held thousands of men over the years, including the most dangerous in U.S. custody—Sunni insurgents, Shiite extremists and al-Qaida in Iraq suspects swept up from battlefields over six years of war.

Iraqi officials say some who have been freed have returned to violence.

"They've been vetted as some of the most dangerous threats not only to Iraq but internationally," said Lt. Col. Kenneth King, the commander of the Bucca detention facility.

On Wednesday, about a dozen of the remaining 180 detainees—some of whom have been held for three years without charge—paced in circles around a fenced-in prison yard, dressed in yellow uniforms and sandals under the watch of a guard tower.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-DEQ-145

SUBMISSION: OCTOBER 1, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OFFICE, SAIPAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON **SEPTEMBER 22, 2009 AT 9:30 A.M.** AT THE DEQ MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR GUALO RAI CENTER, GUALO RAI, SAIPAN.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH THE PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) - (D).

/s/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
September 4, 2009

Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to that certain **Writ of Execution on Personal Property** by the **CNMI Superior Court in Civil Action No. 04-0588C**, the Commonwealth Development Authority ("CDA"), **together with assistance of the CNMI Department of Public Safety**, shall auction off to the highest bidder **assets of Wespac Freight including office furniture, equipments and various other items.**

An inventory listing may be obtained at CDA Office, Gualo Rai or on our website at www.cda.gov.mp, photos are available online.

The auction shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:
1. The items are being sold **"AS IS"** and **"WHERE IS"**;
2. The items are being sold **WITHOUT WARRANTY** of any type;
3. The public auction will be held at the **Wespac Freight Parking Lot, Lower Base, Saipan on Friday, September 25, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.;**
4. Terms of the sale are cash, certified check, or credit card (Visa & Mastercard); and
5. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale from time to time.

Full payment of the bid amount is required before the property can be removed from site. Payment must be received before end of business day, 4:30 p.m. Friday, September 25, 2009. Failure to make full payment will cause award to be null and void.

CDA is attempting to collect a debt and any payments received will be used for that purpose. Any interested party or person may contact Mr. Oscar C. Camacho, Loan Manager, CDA at 234-7145 for further information or to inspect the items. Failure to inspect the property will not constitute grounds for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer. All sales are final.

Dated this 4th day of September, 2009

Commonwealth Development Authority
/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

1ST AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
for the Procurement and Installation of a Non-Directional (Rotating) Beacon at the Tinian International Airport

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies to procure and install a brand new non-directional (rotating) beacon at the Tinian International Airport. Proposals are to include procurement, installation and testing of the new beacon with a 1-year warranty and 1-year preventive maintenance services. Beacon specifications are as follows with all new components:

- No less than sixty feet (60') high;
- Must withstand at least 190 MPH winds;
- Have a 1.5 gust factor;
- Include a climbing device and basket tower;
- Include a beacon light with 120 VAC, lens, pulse start, obstruction lights, lightning rod; and
- Installation of electrical including new wiring, splicing and breaker.

All requirements under FAA Advisory Circular 150/5345-12E, "Specifications for Airport and Heliport Beacons" must be adhered to during the procurement and installation of this equipment.

Furthermore, included in the work is the removal and complete disposal of the existing tower. Disposal site is the responsibility of the contractors but it must be located outside CPA's property.

The proposals shall include the following:

- Letter of Interest;
- Project timeframe;
- Available resources to accomplish project;
- Cost Proposal (in itemized scope of work format);
- Valid CNMI Business License; and
- Proof of insurance.

A walk-through inspection will be conducted on **Friday, September 25, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.** in order to assess the area and determine equipment and materials needed for the installation. Attendance at this walkthrough is mandatory for any companies interested in submitting proposals. Prospective proposers will meet at the office of the Tinian Ports Manager at the Tinian International Airport on the date and time mentioned above.

The contract period for design and replacement will be based on the contractor's proposal. However, liquidated damages of $500.00 shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

All proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, October 9, 2009.**

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: September 15, 2009

PRIORITY OF SERVICE

Pursuant to the Jobs for Veterans Act (US PL 107-288) (38 USC 4215), priority of service is provided to veterans (and certain spouses) who otherwise meet the eligibility requirements for all employment and training programs funded by the USDOL to include funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

For more information, contact WIA at 664-1704; 1707;1708 and 1757 or email us at gov.wia@pticom.com.

This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration.

Off The Wall

Little girl's foul toss makes dad a celebrity

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Dad could not believe his good luck. Steve Monforto made a great grab, catching his first foul ball after years of going to Phillies games. He fist-bumped his buddies, high-fived his 3-year-old daughter and then handed her the prize. Big mistake. Little Emily threw the ball over the railing.

Stunned by his toddler's toss Tuesday night, all Pop could do was hug her.

"I didn't want her to think she did anything wrong," Monforto said on WIP-AM radio Wednesday.

Philly crowds are known for being a tough bunch, but everyone at Citizens Bank Park cheered—first his catch, then his cuddle.

"This was the true reflection of what Philly fans are like," said Bonnie Clark, the team's vice president of communications.

Cameras captured the scene of Monforto reaching over the railing and snagging Jayson Werth's foul in the fifth inning against Washington.

The video was displayed at the top of the Yahoo! Web page and made the NBC national news. The entire family is scheduled to appear on the "Today" show Thursday.

Monforto and his daughter still went home with a baseball. A few of them, actually.

Phillies general manager Ruben Amaro Jr. and three team employees saw what happened and each grabbed a ball and went up to the stands.

"He was very appreciative," Phillies executive Mike Stiles said.

Foul-mouthing boss not grounds for firing in Spain

MADRID (AP)—A court in Barcelona says insulting your boss with one particularly foul obscenity is not grounds for dismissal, insisting the slight is common in arguments in Spain and not that big a deal.

The zinger in question translates as "son of a b----," and was used by a worker against his boss during a January 2008 money dispute in the northeastern city of Gerona. The worker, who also called his boss "crazy," was promptly fired.

The man lost a first court challenge, but won on appeal with the Superior Court of Justice of Catalonia in February.

The ruling—first reported this week by Spanish human resources Web site Carta de Personal—said the worker should either be reinstated in his job or receive euro6,483 ($9,472) in compensation. It is not known which option the employer picked.

"Without a doubt, both expressions are insulting," Judge Sara Maria Pose Vidal said in the ruling, a copy of which was obtained by the AP. But she noted that when the man called his boss crazy, he had been on his way out of the office and the boss did not hear it.

She also wrote that the "son of a b----" remark should be viewed in linguistic context.

"The social degradation of language has caused the expressions used by the plaintiff to become commonly used in certain settings, especially in arguments," Pose Vidal wrote, calling his dismissal a disproportionate punishment.

The court-provided copy of the seven-page verdict had the names of the employee and company blotted out—a common practice in Spanish court dealings with the media.

Australian cat strays 2,400 miles, returns home

HOBART, Australia (AP)—A cat named Clyde was reunited with his owner on Wednesday after a mysterious three-year odyssey in which the long-haired Himalayan strayed 2,400 miles into the Australian Outback.

Ashleigh Sullivan, 19, said she had given up hope of ever finding Clyde after he vanished when he was about one year old from her family home near Hobart city in Australia's island state of Tasmania.

"I'm positive he remembers. He's not acting like he's suddenly appeared somewhere and is frantic," Sullivan said as she tearfully held her contented cat.

A nurse found Clyde wandering at a hospital in the remote Queensland state town of Cloncurry and cared for him for four months before taking him to a local vet as she was leaving town and could not take the cat with her.

The vet, Donna Weber, traced Clyde's owner from an identification microchip that was imbedded under the cat's skin.

But no one has a clue how Clyde managed the 185-mile sea journey across the Bass Strait from Tasmania off mainland Australia's southeast coast, and then about more than 2,000 miles overland to Cloncurry, deep in the arid interior of the Outback.

An animal transport company returned the cat to Hobart for free—flying most of the way.

"It's pretty special to have him back." Sullivan said. "I'm overwhelmed."

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Kansas couple's trash bin tryst takes wrong turn

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—A tender moment in a trash bin went all wrong for a couple who found themselves being held up at pocket knifepoint. Police said two 44-year-olds had climbed into a dumpster to be alone just after 6 p.m. Saturday when two men interrupted them and demanded their belongings. Officers said the man and woman were engaged in "an intimate moment" when they were robbed of their shoes, jewelry and the man's wallet. Police said one of the robbers was a 64-year-old man who egged his 59-year-old companion on during the robbery. The suspects were found a short time later and the stolen property was returned.

Man accused of trading dad's car for $50 in crack

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—Authorities arrested a man they said tried to trade his father's car for $50 worth of crack cocaine. Deputies arrested the 39-year-old man around 4 a.m. Wednesday after his 74-year-old father reported that his Lincoln had been stolen. When deputies arrived at the father's home, they saw the son walking up the street. They determined that the car had been sold for drugs. Deputies later saw someone else driving the Lincoln, and pulled it over. The driver fled the moving car, which hit two parked cars. Deputies caught the driver, who was arrested on suspicion of evading an officer and resisting arrest. The son was arrested on suspicion of car theft. Authorities did not released the names of those involved.

Naked man riding motorcycle charged with DUI

OCALA, Fla. (AP)—Authorities say a Florida man was charged with driving under the influence after he was spotted riding his motorcycle naked. The Marion County deputy was driving on Interstate 75 early Tuesday when he spotted what appeared to be a naked man on a motorcycle. The deputy caught up with 45-year-old J. Dante Krauss at a red light and stopped him. Capt. Mike Rolls said Krauss could not explain where he was coming from or why he was naked. Rolls said the deputy asked him if he had been drinking, and he answered that he had. Breathalyzer tests revealed blood alcohol levels above .08, the state's legal limit to drive. Krauss was charged with what Rolls said turned out to be his fifth DUI. Jail records showed he was later released on $20,000 bail. They did not list an attorney and his phone number was not listed.

Pittsburgh OKs ordinance on human waste in public

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Pittsburgh City Council has passed an ordinance specifically banning public urination and defecation because they said other laws used to cite offenders sometimes don't hold up in court. The measure approved Tuesday carries a $500 fine for anyone who relieves themselves on public streets, private property or city parks. Councilman Bruce Kraus said the measure was needed because police tend to cite people who relieve themselves in public for either disorderly conduct or open lewdness. Often, the disorderly conduct citations don't stand up in court and Kraus said judges are reluctant to convict people on the lewdness charge because it is a sex offense. Mayor Luke Ravenstahl must still sign the bill for it to take effect.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

Tinian Harbor Improvements
CPA-TS-001-09

1st AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals to repair certain features to the dock at the Tinian Harbor. A detailed scope of work will be available at the office of the Executive Office on Thursday, September 3, 2009.

The proposals shall include the following:

- Letter of Interest;
- Project timeframe;
- Available resources to accomplish project;
- Cost Proposal (in itemized scope of work format);
- Valid CNMI Business License; and
- Proof of insurance.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: ***"Proposal for Improvements at the Tinian Harbor, CPA-TS-001-09"***. The proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, October 9, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

Questions will be accepted until October 2, 2009 and are to be submitted in writing to the office of the Executive Director or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com.

A pre-proposal conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, September 25, 2009 at the office of the Tinian Ports Manager at the Tinian International Airport. Attendance at this pre-proposal conference is mandatory and only contractors present at the pre-proposal meeting will be allowed to submit proposals.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: September 15, 2009

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Procurement and Installation of Standby Generator and Building
Port of Saipan
Project No. CPA-SS-002-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA), through a grant from the Office of Homeland Security, is requesting for proposals for design/build services for procurement and installation of one (1) brand new generator with controls, housing and fuel tank to be situated at the Port of Saipan.

A detailed scope of work will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Friday, September 11, 2009. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

The proposals shall include the following:

- Letter of Interest;
- Project timeframe;
- Available resources to accomplish project;
- Cost Proposal (in itemized scope of work format);
- Valid CNMI Business License; and
- Proof of insurance.

A pre-proposal conference will be held on **Friday, September 25, 2009 at 3:00 pm** at the Conference Room at the CPA Seaport Administrative Building. The project scope of work and location of the generator will be discussed. Attendance at this conference is mandatory for all companies interested in submitting proposals.

The contract period for design, installation and testing will be based on the contractor's proposal. However, liquidated damages of $500.00 shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

All proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, October 16, 2009.**

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com no later than Oct. 9, 2009.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: September 9, 2009

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

FUEL HAULING SERVICES
Saipan Harbor & CPA ARFF
CPA-RFP-007-09

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for fuel hauling services to the Port of Saipan and the ARFF facility at the Saipan International Airport. Due to physical constraints and volume required, a small type delivery truck will be suitable.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: ***"Proposal for Fuel Hauling Services to the Port of Saipan and the ARFF Facility at the Saipan International Airport"***. The proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, September 25, 2009,** to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

Questions will be accepted until September 22, 2009 and are to be submitted in writing to the office of the Executive Director or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com.

A pre-proposal conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on September 18, 2009 at the Saipan International Airport Conference Room (2nd floor of the Departure terminal). Attendance at this pre-proposal conference is mandatory and only contractors present at the pre-proposal meeting will be allowed to submit proposals.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E. September 7, 2009
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Science & Technology

New iPod Nano impresses, Zune improves

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Back in 2004, when I got my first MP3 player, I never cared that it lacked a camera, Web browser and crystal-clear video playback—features that are now common on digital media devices.

Apple's latest iPod Nano and Microsoft's freshest Zune, both released within the past week, offer these kinds of perks and plenty more. Neither is right for everyone, but both serve as a reminder of how far digital media players have come in just a few years.

Apple has sold more than 100 million iPod Nanos since launching the first one in 2005, and the latest version should cement its title as king of the prom.

At first glance, the new Nano seems very much like the previous version. It has retained its skinny legginess and curved sides, along with its crisp screen and slightly annoying shake-to-shuffle music feature. Astute gadget hounds may notice it has a slightly enlarged screen—it's now 2.2 inches on the diagonal, up from 2 inches.

There are some major additions, though, that make this tiny tune toter really worth its price tag ($149 for 8 gigabytes of storage space; $179 for 16 gigabytes).

The first is located near the bottom of the Nano's back: A little video camera lens with a pinhole-sized microphone. The location is prone to fingers-over-lens issues, but because the Nano has a built-in accelerometer you can solve this problem by turning the device upside down and it will still know to film right side up.

AP

The Apple iPod Nano, top, and the Microsoft Zune HD are shown in San Francisco, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2009.

Apple says it simply wasn't possible to place the camera anywhere else without making the Nano pudgier, so I'm willing to forgive this inconvenience.

The quality of Nano videos probably won't get you into Cannes, but the camera is so easy to use that I found myself looking for cool things to record while wandering around listening to music. I also loved its special effects filters, which let you film in old-fashioned film mode or "kaleidoscope" mode.

To my chagrin, there is no option to take still photos, and no zoom—two features you'll find on many run-of-the-mill cell phones. Maybe next time, Apple?

The built-in microphone did impress me. It had some difficulties capturing sound from multiple sources at the same time, but noises generally sounded clear in videos. The microphone will also record voice notes—something I've been awaiting for several years.

Another neat feature: Now the Nano has a built-in speaker. You won't notice it at first, since there's no speaker grill. But if you happen to play back a just-recorded video or a song without plugging in headphones, you'll notice that, indeed, the Nano is emitting sound. The speaker does not get that loud, and it doesn't sound incredible, but it's nice to have the option to listen out loud.

Sadly, the speaker doesn't work with the Nano's FM radio—another new feature—since the radio counts on your headphones to act as an antenna. The inclusion of a digital radio is long overdue, and it comes with a neat "live pause" feature that will store up to 15 minutes of the broadcast. This came in handy when I was listening to NPR and wanted to stop and make a phone call. I could just come back and catch up on the news a few minutes later.

Simply put, the new Nano gets nearly everything right. It even includes a built-in pedometer for logging exercise goals. There are plenty of tweaks Apple could—and probably will—make in the future, but it's still the best and smallest multimedia player you can buy for under $200.

Microsoft's Zune player has gotten steadily better since it was first released in 2006. Its latest effort, the Zune HD, gets several things right, including video and music playback. Still, there's still plenty of room for improvement.

The Zune HD ($220 for a 16-gigabyte version; $290 for 32 gigabytes) is packed in a slim, silver-and-black case that sports a fairly generous 3.3-inch touch screen.

HELP FILE

Unsupported scanners; iLife

By ROB PEGORARO
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Q. After upgrading my operating system, the old drivers for my scanner no longer work, and the manufacturer doesn't have any newer ones for me to download. Now what?

A. This happens more often than it should—for example, an upgrade to Apple's Mac OS X Snow Leopard left an iMac with no way to scan images through an otherwise functional Hewlett-Packard printer-scanner unit.

Selling the device to somebody else—then buying a new model from a vendor with a better record of supporting its older hardware—is one option. But if your scanner is valuable enough to you, Hamrick Software's VueScan (hamrick.com) can probably keep it operational.

This $39.95 program supports hundreds of scanners from dozens of manufacturers and comes in versions for every version of Apple and Microsoft's operating systems since Mac OS 9 and Windows 95 (plus releases for Linux). It's free to try, although it will embed dollar-sign watermarks in scans until you pay to register it.

A reader suggested this to me some time ago, citing her own positive experience, and the HP scanner worked perfectly in VueScan's trial download.

■ ■ ■

Q. A rep in one of Apple's stores said I could install the regular Snow Leopard DVD on a Mac running Tiger, but that my old copy of iLife wouldn't work. Is that true?

A. No: iLife '08 doesn't appear on Apple's list of software incompatible with the new operating system, and users on Apple's tech-support forums have confirmed that it works fine in Snow Leopard. This isn't exactly the first time a computer store's employee has offered advice at variance with reality, nor will it be the last.

■ ■ ■

Q: My mom's copy of Firefox doesn't offer to save her tabs when she closes it. Mine does. Is there an option to enable this feature somewhere?

A: Click the checkbox next to "Warn me when closing multiple tabs" under the Tabs category of Firefox's Options window, to get that offer back. (If this option were labeled something like "Warn me when closing multiple tabs; offer to save them when I quit Firefox," it might be easier to figure out.)

ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION (RCGC)
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 1547 ROTA, MP 96951

PURSUANT TO THE OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, DIEGO M. SONGAO HEREBY ANNOUNCES THAT THE ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION'S REGULAR MEETING FOR 18, SEPTEMBER 2009.

DATE: **Friday, 18 SEPTEMBER 2009**

TIME: **2:30 PM**

LOCATION: **Antonio Camacho Atalig Memorial Annex Building, Rota Casino Gaming Commission's Office, Tatachog, Rota, MP 96951**

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Adoption of Agenda
IV. Adoption of Minutes
V. Chairman's Report
VI. Old Business
- None
VII. New Business
- RCGC Operation
VIII. Miscellaneous
IX. Adjournment

*At anytime during the meeting, the Commission may move to Executive Session.

/s/ Diego M. Songao **15, September 2009**
Chairman

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for
CNMI ECO Oil Company Ltd.

The public is invited to provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this Conditional Use application #2009-2672, Tract 22838-R1

Date : October 1, 2009, Thursday
Time : 6:15 pm
Place : Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

Above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30 pm, October 2, 2009. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Victor Barret, Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Jose T. Limes, Board Secretary

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, October 01, 2009 at 6:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Bldg., Saipan

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
5. Communications

B. Reports
1. Chairman
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Administrator
5. Committees
6. Legal Counsel

C. PUBLIC HEARING (6:15pm)
1. Conditional Use Application # 2009-2672, CNMI ECO OIL CO., LTD.

D. Public Comments

E. Permits/ Applications and related actions: review and decide.
1. Conditional Use Application #2009-0296 Sai Mai Thai Noodle

F. Old Business. None

G. New Business. None

H. Executive (Closed) Session - Consult with Legal Counsel regarding pending or anticipated legal matters

I. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Victor Barrett, Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.). /s/ Henry Hofschneider, Chairman

Life & Style

Abercrombie sues Beyonce: fragrance plan stinks

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Abercrombie & Fitch Co. has sued singer Beyonce Knowles, saying her plan for a fragrance named after her alter ego Sasha Fierce violates the teen clothing retailer's trademark.

The chain, which has sold a men's fragrance called Fierce since 2002, wants a court to order Knowles to abandon the plan. Abercrombie has held a trademark for the word "fierce" since 2003, according to the lawsuit it filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Columbus.

Fierce is the scent dispersed by employees and machines in Abercrombie stores with the goal of infusing all the apparel they sell.

Knowles, who released an album in 2008 called "I am ... Sasha Fierce," will unfairly benefit from the reputation Abercrombie has built for the scent and could confuse or deceive customers into thinking Abercrombie is associated with her fragrance, the New Albany, Ohio-based retailer claimed in its lawsuit.

The singer announced Tuesday that she had signed a deal with Coty Inc. to market her new fragrance, set to launch next year, the lawsuit says.

AP

In this Sept. 13, 2009 photo, Beyonce Knowles arrives at the MTV Video Music Awards at Radio City Music Hall in New York.

But in a statement released late Wednesday, Coty said that neither the terms Fierce or Sasha Fierce will be used in Knowles' fragrance.

"Details related to the fragrance, including the official name, will be revealed prior to the launch in early 2010," the company said.

Knowles publicist Yvette Noel-Schure and attorney Larry McFarland did not immediately return e-mails and a call seeking comment Wednesday on the lawsuit.

When Knowles applied in September 2008 to trademark "Sasha Fierce" for a fragrance and other items, Abercrombie asked her to refrain from using the name for fragrance, but she disputed there would be any confusion, according to the lawsuit.

Sales of the Abercrombie & Fitch fragrance reached $190 million, according to the lawsuit. The company projects 2009 sales at $64 million. It estimates it spent more than $3 million in 2008 and 2009 on scent machines for its stores.

Quick million sale for new Dan Brown book

AP

In this May 17, 2006 file photo, author Dan Brown, left, arrives for the screening of "The Da Vinci Code," at the 59th International film festival in Cannes, southern France.

NEW YORK (AP)—Dan Brown does it again, on paper and on the screen.

Doubleday announced Wednesday that "The Lost Symbol," Brown's first novel since "The Da Vinci Code," has already sold more than 1 million copies after being on sale for one day in the United States, Canada and Britain. That total includes preorders for the book, which has been at or near the top of Amazon.com for months.

An additional 600,000 hardcover copies have been ordered, bringing the total print run to 5.6 million copies. "The Lost Symbol" came out Tuesday.

Brown's book was well short of the all-time debut, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," which in its first day sold more than 8 million copies in the U.S. alone.

Doubleday initially said the sales were for hardcover alone, but spokeswoman Suzanne Herz said the number also includes the digital edition, which Doubleday released at the same time despite industry concerns that the standard $9.99 e-book price might hurt sales for the more expensive hardcover.

Thrillers have been especially popular as e-books and no thriller writer is hotter than Dan Brown. Since coming out, "The Lost Symbol" has been the top seller on Amazon.com's overall list and on its list for books downloaded on Amazon's e-reader, the Kindle.

Mary Travers of Peter, Paul and Mary dead at 72

BOSTON (AP)—Mary Travers, who as one-third of the hugely popular 1960s folk trio Peter, Paul and Mary helped popularize such tunes as "Puff (The Magic Dragon)" and "If I Had a Hammer," died in a Connecticut hospital Wednesday after battling leukemia for several years. She was 72.

The band's publicist, Heather Lylis, said Travers died at Danbury Hospital.

Bandmate Peter Yarrow said that in her final months, Travers handled her declining health with bravery and generosity, showing her love to friends and family "with great dignity and without restraint."

"It was, as Mary always was, honest and completely authentic," he said. "That's the way she sang, too; honestly and with complete authenticity."

Noel "Paul" Stookey, the trio's other member, praised Travers for her inspiring activism, "especially in her defense of the defenseless."

AP

In this June 15, 2006 file photo, Mary Travers of the trio Peter, Paul and Mary arrives at the Songwriters Hall of Fame induction ceremony in New York.

"I am deadened and heartsick beyond words to consider a life without Mary Travers and honored beyond my wildest dreams to have shared her spirit and her career," he said.

Mary Allin Travers was born on Nov. 9, 1936 in Louisville, Ky., the daughter of journalists who moved the family to Manhattan's bohemian Greenwich Village. She quickly became enamored with folk performers like the Weavers, and was soon performing with Pete Seeger, a founding member of the Weavers who lived in the same building as the Travers family.

With a group called the Song Swappers, Travers backed Seeger on one album and two shows at Carnegie Hall. She also appeared (as one of a group of folk singers) in a short-lived 1958 Broadway show called "The Next President," starring comedian Mort Sahl.

Message of Appreciation

We, the Family
of the Beloved

Juan Manibusan Diaz

extend our heartfelt Si Yu'us Ma'ase for your thoughtfulness and prayers during the daily masses of intention, nightly rosaries and most especially at the Commemoration of the First Anniversary of His New Life .

Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase Ya Si Yu'us Hu Bendise Hit Todos.

I Familia

In Loving Memory

Pasqual Ngiraiterong Brel

Fondly known as "**OITE**"

January 2, 1945 to September 6, 2009

"Of Melekeok, Palau, having made Saipan his home for many years, was called to eternal life by our Heavenly Father at the age fo 64."

He now joins his daughter: †Baslisa Brel and all his relatives and ancestors that predeceased him.

Prayers will be offered each evening at his residence in Chalan Kiya, beginning September 16,2009 throuhgh September 18, 2009 at 8:00pm.

Oite will be missed and remembered in the hearts of his,

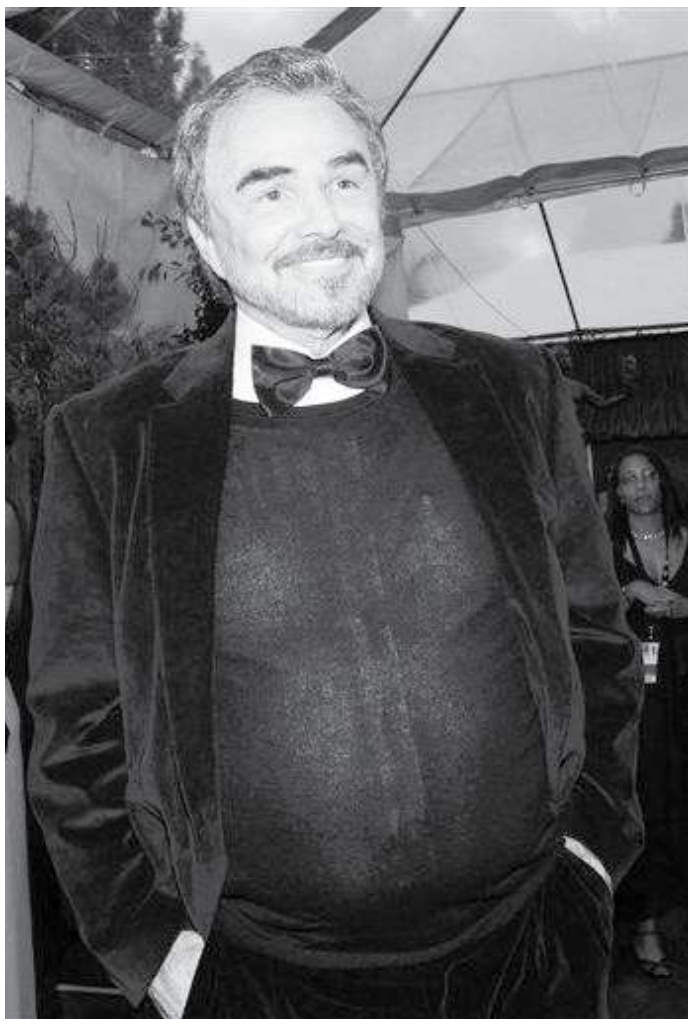
Wife: Isadora West Brel
Daughter: Micheline Brel (Aiden Ngiratis; Tegan Baslisa)
Sons: Lanz Brel and Lucky Brel
Sisters: Akemi Delbirt, Damiana "Nana" Ruluked, Angeline Sandei Ilek
Brothers: Dismas Sandei Ilek, Sinesio Sandei Ilek, Evalisto Ilek, Richard Sandei, Lewis Ilek, Isidoro Ilek, Toshiro Mifune Sandei Ilek

Numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, his brothers and sisters in laws, Christian fellows, friends and neighbors.

Last Respects & Christian Fellowship for Oite will be held at the Saipan Palauan Evangelical Church in Navy Hill on September 19, 2009 (Saturday) at 8:00 a.m.

Internment will follow at Tanapag Cemetery.

Manager: Burt Reynolds treated for drug abuse



AP

In this Jan. 27, 2008 file photo, actor Burt Reynolds at the 14th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards on Sunday, Jan. 27, 2008, in Los Angeles.

MIAMI (AP)—Actor Burt Reynolds has been released from a drug rehabilitation center where he was being treated for an addiction to painkillers, his manager said Wednesday.

The star of "Smokey and the Bandit," "Deliverance" and "Boogie Nights" began struggling after recent back surgery and "realized that he was in the prison of prescription pain pills," his manager Erik Kritzer said in a statement.

Kritzer said in a later e-mail message he did not know when Reynolds entered or left the Hanley Center in West Palm Beach. The facility's management declined comment, citing patient confidentiality.

Kritzer said Reynolds, 73, hopes his story will help others in similar situations and that they won't try to solve the problem by themselves. The actor lives in Hobe Sound, a wealthy beachside community north of Palm Beach County.

In the 1980s, Reynold's career was nearly destroyed when an injury and prescription drug abuse led to false rumors that he was infected with the AIDS virus. He hurt his jaw making the 1984 comedy "City Heat" with Clint Eastwood. Barely able to eat, he lost 50 pounds and looked ill and emaciated.

"For two years I couldn't get a job," Reynolds told the AP in 1990. "I had to take five physicals to get a job. I had to take the pictures that were offered to me. I did action pictures because I was trying to prove that I was well."

He was diagnosed with temporomandibular joint disorder, which affects the area that connects the jaw to the skull and can result in significant pain. Reynolds then confessed to a reliance on the sleeping aid Halcion.

He eventually regained his health and his career, first in the TV series "Evening Shade" and then as the porn movie impresario Jack Horner in the 1997 hit movie "Boogie Nights." He was nominated for an Oscar and won a Golden Globe for best supporting actor.

Chris Brown begins community service in Virginia

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—Singer Chris Brown cleared weeds and debris at police horse stables in Virginia on Wednesday for the first day of his 180-day court-ordered community service for beating ex-girlfriend Rihanna.

Brown worked along with two others who were serving probation, clearing tall weeds and brush by hand and with yard tools. Additional officers were on hand, but only a few fans and television crews gathered nearby.

Dressed in an orange vest, white tank top, baggy jeans and red baseball cap, Brown did not speak to the media but he waved to fans who saw him working.

Brown's schedule, including work hours and days, will be flexible, and he will be performing different types of manual labor, Richmond Police spokesman Gene Lepley said. Police will not reveal when or where Brown will be working in hopes of avoiding security and logistical problems, he said.

"We'll just take a look at it day by day and certainly would ask for the cooperation of the public and Chris' fans so that he is able to satisfy the work requirements," Lepley said.

Brown must pay for the extra guards who work while he is performing community service.

The 20-year-old was sentenced in California last month to five years' probation, six months of community labor and a year of domestic violence counseling for the February attack.

He is performing the labor and undergoing counseling in Richmond, near his home in Montpelier.

Reba McEntire back on top

WASHINGTON (AP)—Reba McEntire is in a new and strangely familiar place.

She's on a brand new record label, Valory Music Company, and her first solo studio album in six years, "Keep On Loving You," debuted at No. 1 on Billboard's country album charts.

McEntire is no stranger to the top spot. She's sold more than 55 million albums and garnered 33 No. 1 hits throughout her career. She's also no stranger to the people at Valory, including its president and CEO, Scott Borchetta. They worked together when he was a top executive at McEntire's old label, MCA Nashville, in the 1990s.

"I know a lot of their ways of doing things," McEntire said. "And so it was just kinda like a family reunion, getting back together again and getting to work with Scott and his team. We're having a wonderful time."

Borchetta also famously launched Taylor Swift's career through Valory's sister label, Big Machine Records. McEntire could see a collaboration with Swift in the future.

"I'd love to sing with Taylor," said McEntire. "She's a wonderful gal, and as young as she is, she's got a wonderful head on her shoulders with business sense. She's a great writer, a great performer. Boy, the sky's the limit for Taylor."

AP

In this Aug. 21, 2009 file photo, Reba McEntire performs in Central Park, on ABC's "Good Morning America" show, in New York.

One thing McEntire, 54, shares on her new album is life experience. She co-wrote the song, "She's Turning 50 Today."

"We changed a little bit, especially on the second verse, because I wanted it to be more personal. I did have a divorce in 1987 when I left Oklahoma and came to Nashville. So, I wanted it to be a little bit more persona," she said.

McEntire is up for two Country Music Association Awards this year—female vocalist of the year and musical event of the year for her performance with Brooks & Dunn on "Cowgirls Don't Cry." She retains her position as the female artist with the highest number of nominations in the 43-year history of the Country Music Association Awards with 48.

Right now, McEntire is fully committed to music, after spending the last eight years acting and doing other projects. She performed on Broadway in "Annie Get Your Gun" and starred in her self-titled TV comedy series. McEntire said going back to Broadway or television again "would be a blast," but it would take the right script for her to do it, and that's not something she's actively looking for.

"Right now, I really want to focus on my music and promote this album and see what the fans think about it," she said.

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All About Steve
Friday 4:20 7:15 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:20 7:15 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:20 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:15
Sandra Bullock, Bradley Cooper
Comedy • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Mary Horowitz is a cruciverbalist–a crossword puzzle constructor. Her brain spins at warp speed with an endless stream of arcane information. She can come up with the perfect word–and dozens with the same meaning–at a moment's notice, but "normal" behavior eludes her. For Mary, nothing is typical, especially relationships. When she is set up on a blind date with handsome cable-news cameraman Steve, Mary thinks the chemistry is undeniable–that Steve is "the one." Steve, on the other hand, thinks Mary is crazy.

And I Love You So
Friday 4:25 7:20 9:30
Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:30
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:20
Bea Alonzo, Derek Ramsay
Drama, Romance • NR
Synopsis
When Lara (Bea Alonzo) lost her husband of five months, she didn't think she could go on living, much less love again. Now, seven months later, Lara is still in mourning. Everytime a loved one died, someone else was there to cushion the blow. When her mother died when she was 14, it was her father. When her father followed six years later, there was the rest of the family. But when her husband died, no one could offer any consolation–not her siblings, nor her in-laws, not her friends. Not only was the love of her life, he had also become her life. It would have been better is she had died with him.

★ ★ ★

Whiteout
Friday 4:00 7:00 10:00
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Kate Beckinsale, Gabriel Macht
Action, Thriller, Crime • Rated R
Synopsis
Carrie Stetko, the lone U.S. Marshal assigned to Antarctica, is investigating the continent's first murder, which draws her into a shocking mystery. Now, with only three days until winter, Carrie must solve the crime before Antarctica is plunged into darkness and she is stranded with the killer.

Sorority Row
Friday 4:05 7:10 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:05 7:10 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:05 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:10
Briana Evigan, Leah Pipes
Thriller, Horror, Remake • Rated R

The Time Traveler's Wife
Friday 4:10 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:10 7:05 9:35
Sunday 4:10 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:05
Rachel McAdams, Eric Bana
Drama, Romance, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13

Gamer
Friday 4:15 7:30 9:45
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:30 9:45
Sunnday 1:15 4:15 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:30
Gerald Butler, Amber Valletta
Action, Thriller • Rated R

G.I. JOE
Friday 4:30 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:30 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:30 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:25
Dennis Quaid, Channing Tatum
War • Rated PG 13

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Woman discovers old beau is her new friend's husband

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I recently met a woman at a "Mommy and Me" class. We hit it off immediately and started making plans for play dates, etc. During one class we started talking about our husbands, and I realized that her husband is someone I had a casual relationship with 10 years ago.

I have avoided getting together with her ever since because I don't know if it is appropriate to tell her how well I know her husband. I have not had any contact with him, and I don't know how he would feel about my friendship with his wife. If we are to be friends, I feel I must be honest with her. I'd appreciate your advice.

FEELING AWKWARD IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR FEELING AWKWARD: If the situation were reversed, how would you feel about it? Would you feel OK with it if she had rejected your husband? If he rejected her, would you care to reintroduce someone who might be considered a "woman scorned"? Or are you all sophisticated enough to laugh it off and let bygones be bygones? If the answer to that last question is yes, then level with her. If not, then don't go there.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: "Mary" and I worked in the same department for 20 years. We would occasionally socialize outside of work along with our husbands. They eventually divorced, but I stayed friends with Mary. She remarried, transferred out of my department a few years ago, and we now see each other only at work-related functions.

I recently heard that her ex had passed away suddenly. I don't know whether I should send her a condolence card, call her or not mention anything until we bump into each other again. What is the proper procedure for acknowledging—or not—the death of an ex-spouse?

ROCHELLE IN HAMILTON, N.Y.

DEAR ROCHELLE: If Mary's first marriage ended in a bitter divorce, drop her a line and let her know what you heard. She may not have heard the news. If the divorce was a friendly one, then give her a call and offer condolences. Not only would it be a gesture of support, but also an opportunity for the two of you to catch up.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My friend, "Jane," who lives in California, is going through a painful divorce. She has recently become obsessed with a celebrity and, through fan chat rooms, found out where he hangs out, goes shopping, etc.

She is now attending his church. She has spoken to him casually twice and says she "knows" they are meant to be together.

I know Jane isn't violent, and I'm sure she would do him no harm, but when I mentioned counseling she accused me of being "jealous."

Abby, we're not teenagers. Jane is a 43-year-old woman. Mutual friends tell me I should let her have her fun. Am I right to be concerned?

FRIEND OF A STALKER

DEAR FRIEND: Yes, to a degree, because your friend may be setting herself up for another disappointment. Sought-after celebrities develop an instinct for detecting obsessed fans who try to worm their way into their lives.

Right now, Jane's behavior is on the outer perimeters of normal. But if it escalates, contact the clergyperson of the church and let him or her know what's going on so he or she can take action or the celebrity can be notified.

■ ■ ■ ■

TO MY JEWISH READERS: Rosh Hashanah begins tonight at sundown, so I'd like to wish everyone a happy, healthy new year!

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

'Zookeeper' monkeys evacuated from Boston hotel

AP

A trainer and monkey being used in the movie "Zoo Keeper," currently being filmed in the Boston area, stand outside the Liberty Hotel in Boston Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2009, after the hotel was evacuated because of high readings of carbon monoxide throughout the building.

BOSTON (AP)—Two movie-star monkeys and crew members of the Adam Sandler film "The Zookeeper" are among the 300 guests who were evacuated from a Boston hotel after carbon monoxide alarms went off.

Fire Department spokesman Steve MacDonald says a small boiler leak at the luxury Liberty hotel prompted elevated readings at around 9:30 a.m. Wednesday. He says the leak was fixed early afternoon and no one was hurt.

Liberty spokesman Jim Treadway says the hotel has also hosted the non-animal stars of "The Zookeeper," but none slept over Wednesday. He declined to drop names.

"The Zookeeper" made headlines earlier this month when a teenage boy fell into a lion pit at the Franklin Park Zoo in Boston that was part of the movie set. No animals were in the area, and the boy was not badly hurt.

Regina Spektor set to pen music for B'way musical

NEW YORK (AP)—Regina Spektor has set her sights on Broadway—writing the music for a show inspired by "Sleeping Beauty."

Elephant Eye Theatricals says the singer-songwriter will collaborate on "Beauty," a contemporary retelling of the Grimm fairy tale. It's tentatively planned for the 2011-2012 Broadway season after an out-of-town tryout.

"Beauty" will feature book and direction by Tina Landau and lyrics by Michael Korie.

Among Spektor's best-selling albums are "Begin to Hope" and the recently released "far."

Jenna Elfman pregnant on TV—and in real life

NEW YORK (AP)—Jenna Elfman won't just be acting when she plays a pregnant woman in a new CBS sitcom this fall. She's expecting her second child in real life. The former "Dharma & Greg" star is featured in the new series "Accidentally on Purpose," where she's a movie critic who becomes pregnant following a fling with a younger man.

She told Julie Chen on "The Early Show" on Wednesday that she wasn't into method acting. But Elfman says that since her character is pregnant for most of the show's first season, it would be a good time to have a baby because she won't have to worry about hiding her pregnancy.

Elfman and her husband, actor Bodhi Elfman, have a 2-year-old son named Story.

In this Dec. 18, 2008 file photo, Jenna Elfman arrives at the premiere of "Valkyrie" in Los Angeles.

AP

'Laugh-In' actor Henry Gibson dies at 73

AP

In this April 2, 2002 file photo, former "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In" cast members Joanne Worley, left, and Henry Gibson share a kiss during a ceremony honoring comedian Dick Martin and his late comic partner Dan Rowan with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Henry Gibson, the veteran comic character actor best known for his role reciting offbeat poetry on "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In," has died. He was 73.

Gibson's son, James, said Gibson died Monday at his home in Malibu after a brief battle with cancer.

After serving in the Air Force and studying at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, Gibson—born James Bateman in Germantown, Pa., in 1935—created his Henry Gibson comic persona, a pun on playwright Henrik Ibsen's name, while working as a theater actor in New York. For three seasons on "Laugh-In," he delivered satirical poems while gripping a giant flower.

After "Laugh-In," Gibson went on to appear in several films, including "The Long Goodbye" and "Nashville," which earned him a Golden Globe nomination. His most memorable roles included playing the menacing neighbor opposite Tom Hanks in "The 'Burbs," the befuddled priest in "Wedding Crashers" and voicing Wilbur the Pig in the animated "Charlotte's Web."

His recent work included playing cantankerous Judge Clarence Brown on ABC's "Boston Legal" for five seasons and providing the voice of sardonic, eye-patched reporter Bob Jenkins on Fox's "King of the Hill." In 2001, Gibson returned to the stage in New York in the Encores! New York City Center production of Rodgers and Hart's "A Connecticut Yankee."

Gibson is survived by three sons and two grandchildren.

Emmy countdown: Red carpet out at Nokia Theatre

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The 61st Primetime Emmy Awards are days away, but Hollywood is already gearing up for Sunday's awards. Here's a look at what's already going on around Tinseltown:

SHAG FLIES

Preparations for the Emmys are rolling now.

Workers rolled out the red carpet Wednesday in front of the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles, four days before Sunday's live telecast.

The carpet is flanked by empty bleachers for fans who arrive early to catch a glimpse of their favorite TV stars.

SEAT FILLERS

Hugh Laurie is sitting in his Emmys seat already. So are Holly Hunter, Jack McBrayer and dozens of other nominees.

No, the actors themselves aren't too anxious to wait for Sunday's Emmy ceremony—but their places are being held by large cardboard cards that bear their photos.

The Nokia Theatre's blue seats were filling up Wednesday with the placeholders as workers began making assigned seating arrangements.

MY EMMY MOMENT

Past winners recall the moments they won their first Emmy Awards:

"Zsa Zsa Gabor was doing 'Bachelor's Haven,' a dating show, and everybody was sure that she was going to get it—was absolutely a given. So, it came around where they were going to announce the name, and Zsa Zsa got out her purse, and she powdered her nose and put her lipstick on, and they said my name. And, now, I don't know how to face Zsa Zsa or what to do.

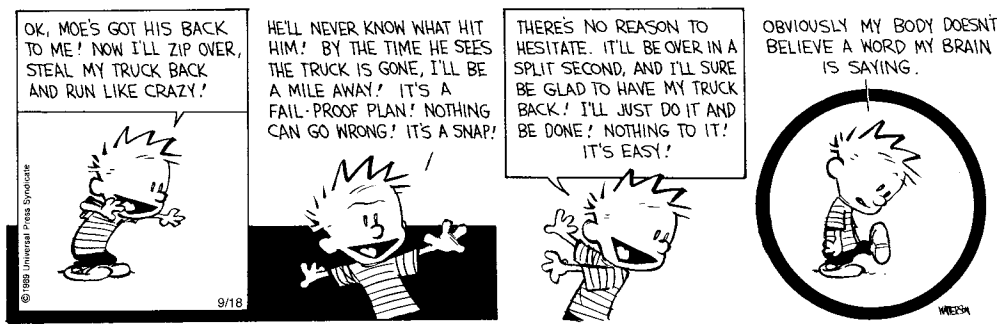
"I think (of all my Emmy wins), it was one of the most exciting."

—Betty White, comedy actress winner in 1952 for "Life with Elizabeth."

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


OK, MOE'S GOT HIS BACK TO ME! NOW I'LL ZIP OVER, STEAL MY TRUCK BACK AND RUN LIKE CRAZY!
HE'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT HIT HIM! BY THE TIME HE SEES THE TRUCK IS GONE, I'LL BE A MILE AWAY! IT'S A FAIL-PROOF PLAN! NOTHING CAN GO WRONG! IT'S A SNAP!
THERE'S NO REASON TO HESITATE. IT'LL BE OVER IN A SPLIT SECOND, AND I'LL SURE BE GLAD TO HAVE MY TRUCK BACK! I'LL JUST DO IT AND BE DONE! NOTHING TO IT! IT'S EASY!
OBVIOUSLY MY BODY DOESN'T BELIEVE A WORD MY BRAIN IS SAYING.
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9/18

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

GARFIELD, CAN YOU HELP ME?
JIM DAVIS 9-18
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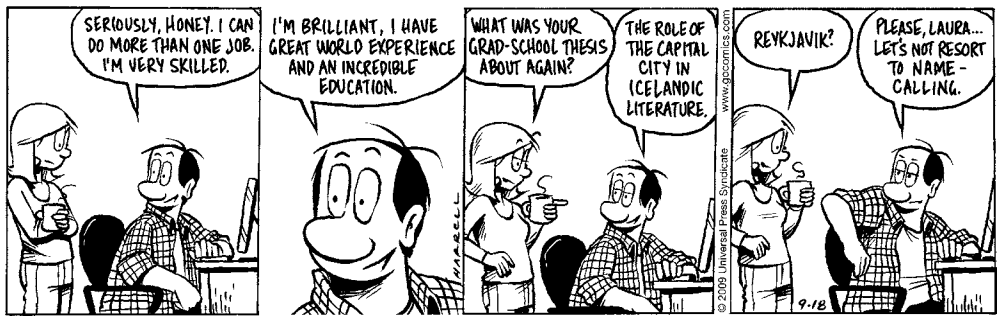
THE ZIPPER ON MY MUSCLE SUIT IS STUCK
I HOPE THAT HURT!
HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SERIOUSLY, HONEY. I CAN DO MORE THAN ONE JOB. I'M VERY SKILLED.
I'M BRILLIANT, I HAVE GREAT WORLD EXPERIENCE AND AN INCREDIBLE EDUCATION.
WHAT WAS YOUR GRAD-SCHOOL THESIS ABOUT AGAIN?
THE ROLE OF THE CAPITAL CITY IN ICELANDIC LITERATURE.
REYKJAVIK?
PLEASE, LAURA... LET'S NOT RESORT TO NAME-CALLING.
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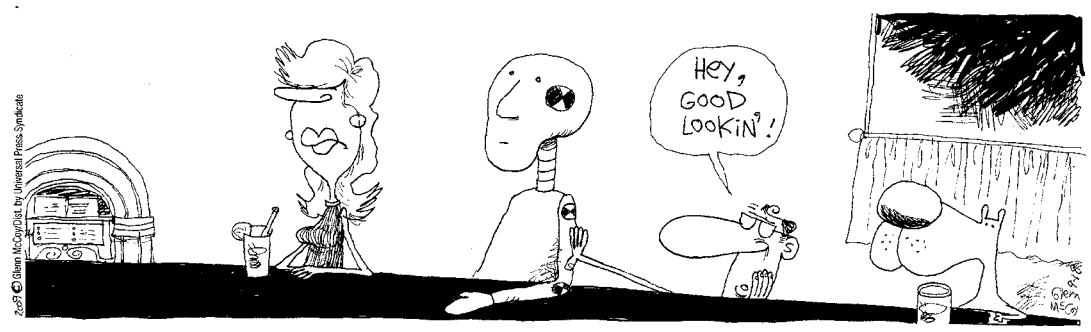
9-18

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

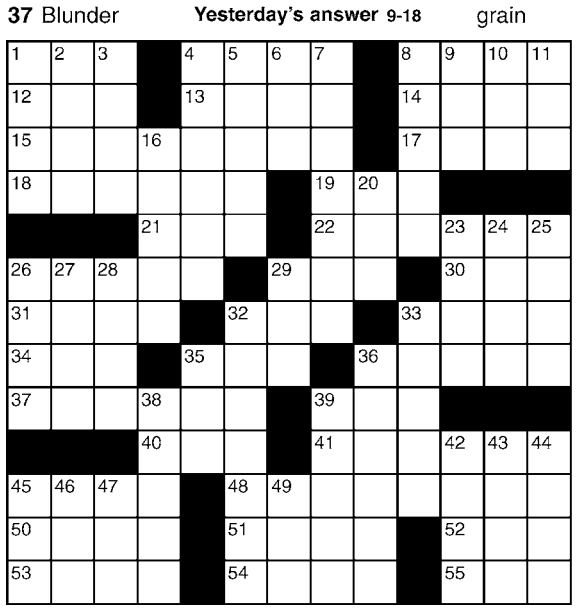
ACROSS
1 Deviate from course
4 Soother
8 Region
12 Yoko of music
13 Always
14 Paradise
15 Blimp name
17 Church seating
18 Not alfresco
19 Mischievous tyke
21 Stick with a kick
22 101-digit number
26 Chipped in at the start
29 "Eureka!"
30 Fish eggs
31 Equipment
32 Bankbook abbr.
33 Labyrinth
34 Bobby of hockey
35 Weight stat
36 Vestibule
37 Blunder
39 A Bobbsey twin
40 Buckeyes' sch.
41 Gibson of tennis fame
45 Hoodoo
48 Zero
50 Mayberry moppet
51 Appellation
52 West of Hollywood
53 Sailors
54 Use a teaspoon
55 Egos' counterparts

DOWN
1 Boo-Boo's mentor
2 Unsigned (Abbr.)
3 Lumber
4 Past
5 Sidestep
6 Meadow
7 Perfect husband
8 A Marx brother
9 Praise in verse
10 Just out
11 Em halves
16 Grandparent, often
20 Extinct New Zealander
23 Confederate color
24 Leak slowly
25 Lusty look
26 Enthusiastic
27 Pianist Peter
28 Poi base
29 Blackbird
32 Attacks with arguments
33 Three-card scam
35 Clear the tables
36 Less authentic
38 Reynards
39 Judd or Campbell
42 Half (Pref.)
43 "Zounds!"
44 Gets older
45 Trot
46 WSJ news item
47 Pen point
49 Cheerios grain

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	W	A	M	■	A	L	B	A	■	D	O	T	
U	R	G	E	■	S	O	A	R	■	O	B	I	
M	A	R	C	H	H	A	R	E	■	R	I	P	
S	P	A	C	E	Y	■	■	N	A	M	E	S	
■	■	■	A	X	■	A	L	A	M	O	■	■	
O	A	T	S	■	A	L	A	■	P	U	P	A	
F	I	E	■	■	M	I	R	■	■	S	O	D	
F	L	A	P	■	I	C	K	■	J	E	E	Z	
■	■	P	U	L	S	E	■	S	O	■	■	■	
S	H	A	P	E	■	■	S	E	S	A	M	E	
H	E	R	■	M	A	D	H	A	T	T	E	R	
A	R	T	■	O	B	O	E	■	L	O	N	G	
M	A	Y	■	N	E	E	D	■	E	M	U	S	

Yesterday's answer 9-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: James Marsden, 36; Jada Pinkett Smith, 38; Aisha Tyler, 39; James Gandolfini, 48

Happy Birthday: Emotional matters will stand in your way if you let them. Don't allow anyone to play manipulative games with you when the stakes are high and the end result will determine your future. Stay on top of whatever means the most to you. Your strength will come from knowing exactly what you want and how to go about getting it. Your numbers are 5, 16, 21, 27, 34, 40, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You'll have to gauge your time appropriately. Use common sense and a calm response and you will impress someone who is considering asking you to get involved in an interesting project. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You're in sync and ready to explore new territory. Advancement, a new job or project that offers more money or clout will be worth celebrating. A health or financial issue must be approached differently if you want to find a solution. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Be creative and you will come up with some fun activities that don't cost an exuberant amount. Keeping tabs on how much you spend will stop someone from nagging or criticizing the way you handle your money. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Now is the time for change whether you like it or not. Once you get moving and you have things in order, you will appreciate the way things fall into place and work more efficiently. You can make an offer or propose a deal with confidence. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Make the most of your day with activities that will challenge and satisfy your physical and mental needs. Taking in a cultural event or finding out about different lifestyles will change your way of thinking and doing things. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You can plan everything to the last detail and there will still be disruptions, delays and a need to make changes as you go along. Uncertainty that you are feeling must be brought out in the open so you can deal with it. Don't back down but be willing to compromise. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Dealing with institutions or authority figures is prominent. Make sure you have your papers in order and your facts straight. Take care of any unfinished business or a financial debt quickly. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Pay attention to detail and you will surpass what anyone expects of you. Your input into whatever group or organization you are working with will be valuable. A change in your title, position or status is apparent. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't invite trouble. A risk at this time will not bring the results you are expecting. Stick to basics and be ready to size down or sell off what you don't need in order to cover any debts or responsibilities. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You will be able to take care of personal affairs that have been pending. Your professionalism will determine how much you can accomplish and the gains you can make. There is money to be made, won or borrowed. Build your assets. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Love will cloud your mind and cause you to make decisions that you might not otherwise make. Before you sign any legal documents or take on a responsibility you really cannot afford, ask for sound advice from someone you can trust. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Getting involved in a relationship or forming a partnership will change your life. There are many factors involved that can bring you benefits as well as disadvantages. Consider all the consequences. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are practical, precise and a hard worker. You are caring, sensitive and willing to compromise. You are a good friend.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		1	6					
		3	7					
4	5				9	3		
3	2				6	5		
		9	5				4	1
		4	1				3	9
					2	7		
					8	1		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	5	8	9	6	4	7	3	1
1	3	6	7	5	2	9	4	8
7	9	4	8	1	3	2	5	6
6	4	7	5	2	8	1	9	3
9	8	3	1	4	7	5	6	2
5	2	1	6	3	9	8	7	4
4	1	5	2	7	6	3	8	9
8	6	2	3	9	5	4	1	7
3	7	9	4	8	1	6	2	5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/17

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BLOOD THINNERS — **Solution: 8 letters**

L	X	R	D	H	T	L	A	E	H	D	E	E	L	B
O	A	O	O	G	T	E	L	E	T	A	L	P	I	R
V	S	C	N	T	A	S	P	I	R	I	N	O	L	A
E	I	U	I	E	C	A	C	B	N	Y	L	A	L	L
N	L	T	S	T	R	O	K	E	R	O	R	N	E	U
O	O	G	A	I	U	G	D	E	G	U	I	(P)	C	C
X	B	U	N	M	E	E	G	Y	T	E	(I)	N	N	S
H	M	R	A	N	I	R	C	A	V	(L)	A	S	O	A
X	E	D	E	R	U	N	N	A	(L)	A	R	O	E	V
L	I	R	T	S	L	A	C	I	M	E	H	C	G	O
N	I	V	B	D	I	C	U	M	A	R	O	L	R	I
C	E	F	A	A	R	T	R	A	E	H	A	I	U	D
L	E	S	E	L	L	T	C	E	J	N	I	H	S	R
O	T	S	E	T	P	R	E	S	S	U	R	E	P	A
T	H	R	O	M	B	O	S	I	S	T	N	U	O	C

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Aggrenox, Aspirin, Biology, Bleed, Bruise, Cardiovascular, Cell, Chemical, Clot, Coumadin, Count, Dicumarol, Doctor, Dose, Drug, Emboli, Generic, Health, Heart, Heparin, Herbal, Inject, Life, Lovenox, Lung, Natural, Onion, Oral, Pharmaceutical, Pill, Platelet, Plavix, Pressure, Stroke, Surgeon, Surgery, Test, Thrombosis, Vein, Vitamin

Yesterday's Answer: Purring

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Computer Repair
Only $25 Minor Problem
WE ALSO FIX LAPTOP & USED PARTS
We Buy Used Computer & Printer.
CalvaTron 233-5641 Open 7 Days a Week 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

BAR FOR SALE
BLUE KOI TAVERN
LOCATED IN GARAPAN
✦ COMPLETE TURNKEY OPPORTUNITY
✦ $20,000 OR BEST OFFER
CONTACT MARY @ 287-4299

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND
"Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members"

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
JVA# 09-015

OPENING DATE: **September 8, 2009** CLOSING DATE: **September 23, 2009**

The NMI Retirement Fund has the following positions available:

	Starting Salary Range
Internal Auditor	$24,889.35 – $42,558.00 (Pay Level 32)
Accountant II	$19,511.46 – $33,345.42 (Pay Level 27)

Interested individuals may pick up an application and the complete Position Description from the NMI Retirement Fund, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or may request a packet by e-mail from the Administrator at **administrator01@nmiretirement.com**.

LOST DOG

RIZZO, A BLACK & BEIGE COLORED MALE DOG WITH **FADED BLUE COLLAR** AROUND HIS NECK, LEFT HOME IN **DANDAN** SIX WEEKS NOW.

WHEN RIZZO FIRST LEFT HOME, NO ONE OUT THERE KNEW WHO HE BELONGED TO. NOW THAT RIZZO IS IDENTIFIED WITH PHONE NUMBERS, KINDLY FIND IT IN YOUR HEART TO CALL **FATHER NOLI** AT **285-6654** OR **483-3027**.

HIS COLLAR MAY HAVE CHANGED, AND HE MAY HAVE LOST WEIGHT BUT PLEASE FOCUS ON RIZZO'S DESCRIPTION & HIS PICTURE.

REGARDLESS OF HIS CONDITION, I APPRECIATE YOUR CALL & THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF HIM. I AM HAPPY TO NEGOTIATE THE REWARD IN A FRIENDLY MANNER.

PLEASE CALL

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

TURN AMULET

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Find today's solution in this section

MICROL CORPORATION - TOYOTA
Has openings for the following positions -
1 - Toyota Service Advisor
1 - Toyota Service Technician
Applicants must apply in person.
Phone inquires will not be entertained.
Applicants must be legally entitled to work in the CNMI.

WHATZIT Solution:
Turn on the charm

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JOAQUIN TAISACAN QUITUGUA, Plaintiff, vs. FRANCISCO BLAS IGISAIAR and EDDY BLAS IGISAIAR, Defendants. — CIVIL ACTION NO. 96-1249 — FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on March 6, 2009, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants Eddy Blas Igisaiar in and to the following property: Lot No. 026 K 80, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 895 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 026 K 08 dated September 24, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-3500, the description therin being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale wil be held on Friday, October 9, 2009, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, Esq., LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 11th day of September, 2009.

/s/ **MICHAEL A. WHITE**
Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ESTEBAN RASIANG NOGIS, Deceased. — CIVIL ACTION NO. 05-0113 D — THIRD AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 16, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of the Estate of Esteban Rasiang Nogis in and to the following property: Track No. 22703-3, containing an area of 1,484 square meters, more or less.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 9, 2009, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC., Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 10th day of September, 2009.

/s/ **MICHAEL A. WHITE**
Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC., Plaintiff, -v-. LUCIA C. SABLAN, Defendant. — CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0058 — NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on August 19, 2009, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot 1749-NEW-B-18 (part of Lot 1749-NEW-B, part of original lot 1749, T.D. 305), situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2012/94, the original of which was recorded 11 October, 1993 as Document No. 93-3796 at the Commonwelath Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 9, 2009, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 25th day of August, 2009:

/s/ **MICHAEL A. WHITE**, Auctioneer

EMPLOYMENT

WANTED: Avon Representative and earn 20% up to 50% commission. Please contact Jojo Faller at 323-4455 or 483-1971.

FOR SALE

Two-20 foot steel shipping container. Excellent condition. Cheap! Call 287-1073.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 2-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated Bldg. 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Backup generator. Free Wi-Fi. EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Oceanview & Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

DRUNK DRIVING
Over the limit. Under arrest.

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
Call 235- NEWS

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DLNR09-IFB- 150

SMILING COVE MARINA REHABILITATION PROJECT SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and its Division of Fish and Wildlife, are soliciting sealed bids for the Smiling Cove Marina Rehabilitation Project, Saipan. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (**CNMI**).

The project package consisting of plans, specifications, and bid documents will be available on or after September 11, 2009. Interested bidders should obtain the project package at the Pacific Quick Print & Post, located along Middle Road in Garapan, Saipan. The project package shall be released upon payment of the copying cost for each set, non-refundable amount to be determined, to Pacific Quick Print & Post. Interested bidders must provide a photocopy of the project package payment receipt in its bid. Any bids submitted without a photocopy of the payment receipt shall be rejected and not considered. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further **Amended by Public Law 15-118** and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.

There will be a pre-bid conference for this project on September 30, 2009, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Division of Fish and Wildlife conference room. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the Invitation for Bids before submitting a bid. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on October 7, 2009 to **Mr. Sylvan O. Igisomar**, Director of Fish and Wildlife, Lower Base, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-6060 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time, October 7, 2009.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DLNR09-IFB-150"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time on October 22, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time on October 22, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than October 22, 2009, and must be received no later than November 2, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:30 a.m. local time on November 6, 2009. However, if no notices of Intent to Bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. local time, on October 27, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". The surety company shall hold a Certificate of Authority (COA) from the U.S. Department of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. If a bid bond is submitted, it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must hold a Certificate of Authority (COA) from the U.S. Department of Treasury as an acceptable surety and must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Sixty One (**161**) working days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at Four Hundred dollars (**US$400.00**) per working day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DR. IGNACIO T. DELA CRUZ, DVM
Secretary, Department of Lands and Natural Resources

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement and Supply

VICENTE T. SALAS
Law Office of Vicente T. Salas
2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

F. MATTHEW SMITH
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San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff,	)	Civil Action No. 04-0588C
vs.	)	
ANTONIO S. CAMACHO, ELPHIDIA MSP. CAMACHO, and CNMI DIVISION OF REVENUE AND TAXATION, Defendants.	)	NOTICE OF AUCTION

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, here-inafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, here-inafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Antonio S. Camacho and Elphidia MSP. Camacho, jointly and severally, in the following described, lease of real property situated at the Commercial Port of Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

25 Year Ground Lease (File No. 88-348)
- Dated November 25, 1986
- Between Antonio Salas Camacho and the Commonwealth Ports Authority
- Of that certain tract parcel of land situated at the Commercial Port, designated as **Lot no. 032 E 03**, containing an area of 5,043 square meters (54,264.176 square feet), including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.

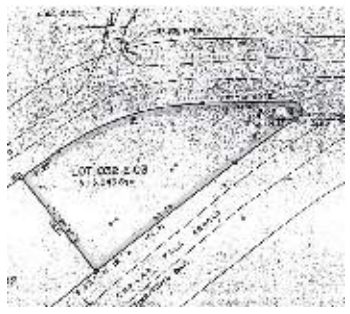
The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m., on Friday, September 25, 2009**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. **Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
2. Reserve. The auction shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conduction the auction:
   a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject , on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit: Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price mush be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. **Bidders are cautioned to inspect the lease, title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the Defendants Antonio S. Camacho and Elphedia MSP Camacho in the lease and property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the lease or real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.**

Dated this 28th day of August, 2009.

/s/ **SANTIAGO F. TUDELA**, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

Legal Description	Lot 032 E 03	**Utilities Available**	Power, Water, Telephone, Sewer, Cable
Total Land Area	5,043 sqm	**Highest & Best Use as Improved**	Continued Industrial Use
Location	Puerto Rico Lower Base	**Concluded Final Leasehold Value Estimate**	$178,000.00
Zoning	Industrial	**Rights Appraised**	Leasehold Interest



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW09-IFB-030

ROAD SHOULDER REPAIR AND RESTORATION
ROUTE 10, CM-NH-1000(005) ER
ROUTE 100, CM-NH-0100(002) ER

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Route 10 & 100 Road Shoulder Repair and Restoration, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package consisting of Plans, Specifications, and Bid Documents will be available on or after September 4, 2009 at Pacific Quick Print & Post, located in Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to Pacific Quick Print & Post, is required to defray the cost of printing the package.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and further amended by Public Law 15-118, **is not available** to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project. All wages rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wages as required by the CNMI law & Federal Law.

A Pre-bid Conference is scheduled for September 24, 2009, 1:00 p.m.. local time at the Rota Mayor's Office Rota Conference Room. After the pre-bid there will be a site visit for Route 10 and Route 100. It is very important for the bidders to see the existing condition and the complexity of the proposed project.

Prospective bidders should carefully examine and review the invitation for bids. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that the full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division**, Suite 212, Joeten-Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who have obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgement of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/38 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW09-IFB-030"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time October 13, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time October 13, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to ***procurement@pticom.com.*** For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than October 13, 2009, and must be received no later than October 22, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, October 27, 2009, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on October 16, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. A surety company shall hold the Certificate of Authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable to the Attorney General and must accompany the bid. Bid security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with NMIAC §70-30.3-301 of the Procurement Regulations. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Department of Treasury as an acceptable surety and must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI. In addition, the contractor will be required to deliver a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments or other bond obligations) exceeded the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Eighty (180) working days upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for the delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed according to table 108-1 of the Standard Specifications for Construction of Roads and Bridges on Federal Projects, FP-96, or One Thousand Four Hundred Dollars ($1,400.00) whichever is greater.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by FHWA.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ VIVIAN M. LIZAMA
Acting Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW09-IFB-032

NASA PLACE ASPHALT PAVING, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Nasa Place Asphalt Paving, Susupe, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available on or after September 18, 2009 at DPW Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor-Joeten Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (**$US100.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Preference is available to US Citizen as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118. Prospective bidders claiming for US Citizen Preference are required to submit *P&S Form 100 (Revised 12/20/07)* with their sealed bids.

A Pre-bid Conference is scheduled for October 07, 2009, 1:00 p.m. local time at the project site located at Nasa Place, in Susupe.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that the full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division**, Suite 212, Joeten-Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who have obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgement of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/38 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW09-IFB-032"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, October 19, 2009. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, October 19, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than October 19, 2009, and must be received no later than October 28, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, November 02, 2009. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a. m. local time, on October 22, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **A surety company shall hold the Certificate of Authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General and must accompany the bid.** Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with NMIAC §70-30.3-301 of the Procurement Regulations. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Department of Treasury as an acceptable surety and must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI. In addition, the contractor will be required to deliver a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments or other bond obligations) exceeded the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty **(120)** working days upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at Five Hundred Dollars **(US$500.00)** per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded Saipan Local Law 15-12.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Red Sox notch dramatic win over Angels

BOSTON (AP)—Boston's Alex Gonzalez hit a bases-loaded blooper down the left-field line with two outs in the bottom of the ninth to give the Red Sox a 9-8 win over the Los Angeles Angels in the American League on Wednesday.

The Red Sox trailed 3-0 and 7-5 before tying the game in the bottom of the eighth. The Angels took the lead in the top of the ninth on three straight two-out singles against Boston pitcher Daniel Bard. But L.A. closer Brian Fuentes coughed up the lead in the bottom half.

The Red Sox have won seven straight, and 10 in a row at Fenway Park to take a firm hold on the wild card berth. With only 18 games to play, they lead out-of-form Texas by 6-1/2 games.

The Angels maintained a six-game lead over the Rangers in the AL West.

Yankees 5, Blue Jays 4

In New York, Hideki Matsui hit a tying, two-run homer in the eighth inning to help lift New York over Toronto.

Francisco Cervelli then hit the winning single in the ninth as the Blue Jays and Yankees made it through nine innings calmly after their wild brawl the previous day.

New York was held to four hits through seven innings, then tied it on Matsui's 25th homer of the season, off pitcher Scott Downs.

Athletics 4, Rangers 0

In Arlington, Texas, pitcher Trevor Cahill combined with two relievers on a one-hit shutout as Oakland beat Texas.

The Athletics, last in the AL West, completed their first three-game series sweep in more than three months.

Cahill had a career-best seven strikeouts and walked just two in seven innings, limiting Texas to a bloop single in the second. Relievers Michael Wuertz and Andrew Bailey each worked a perfect inning to close out Oakland's ninth shutout of the season.

Mariners 4, White Sox 1

In Seattle, Ryan Rowland-Smith pitched eight innings to steer Seattle past Chicago.

Rowland-Smith allowed nine hits but was able to work out of trouble to keep the White Sox at bay.

Closer David Aardsma worked the ninth for his 35th save of the season.

Tigers 4, Royals 3

In Detroit, Placido Polanco hit a go-ahead RBI single in the sixth inning to lift Detroit over Kansas City.

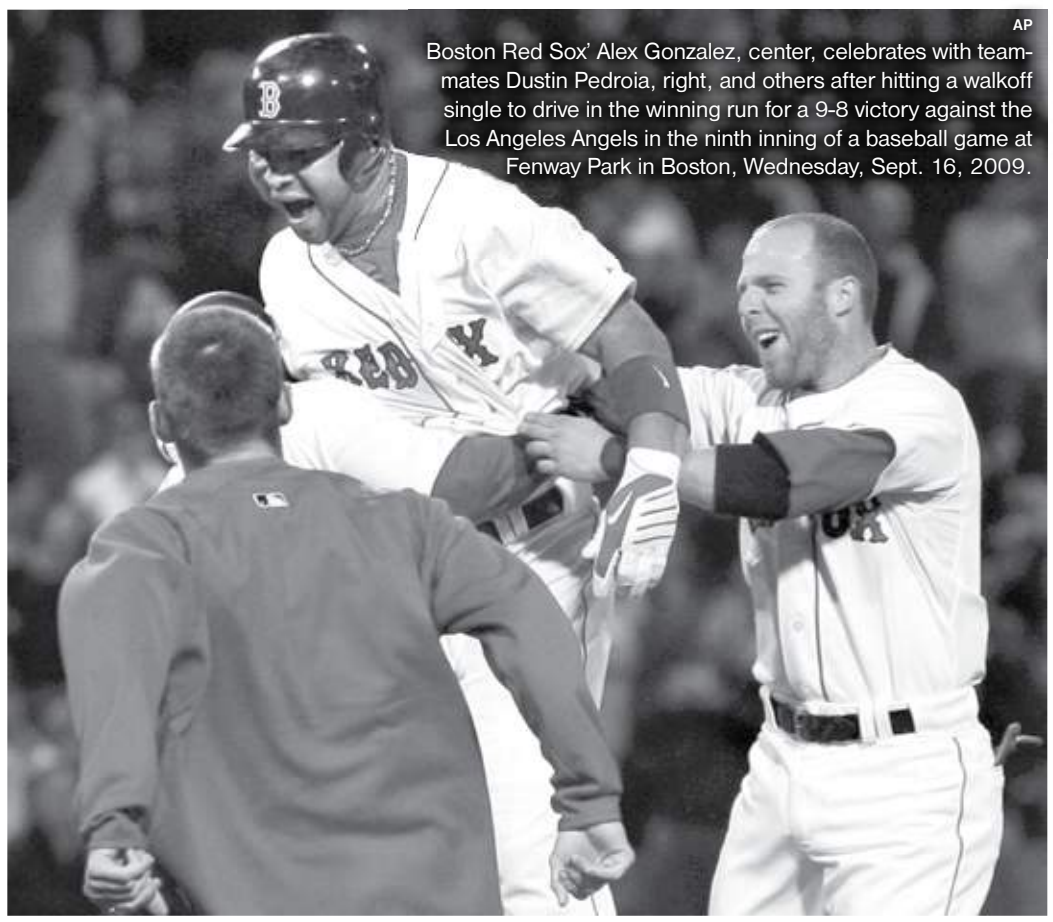
MLB BRIEFS

Posada, Carlson suspended 3 games each

NEW YORK (AP)—Yankees catcher Jorge Posada and Toronto pitcher Jesse Carlson each were suspended for three games and fined Wednesday by Major League Baseball for their roles in a bench-clearing brawl. The pair were cited for "aggressive and inappropriate actions" by Bob Watson, MLB's vice president for discipline, and started serving the penalties immediately, a day after they tangled. Yankees utilityman Shelley Duncan also was suspended for three games and appealed, delaying the start of any discipline. Toronto manager Cito Gaston said Carlson was fined $3,000 and that Blue Jays catcher Rod Barajas was docked $1,000. Posada was fined $2,500, and Yankees hitting coach Kevin Long and pitcher Edwar Ramirez also were fined.

Little girl's foul toss makes dad a celebrity

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Dad could not believe his good luck. Steve Monforto made a great grab, catching his first foul ball after years of going to Phillies games. He fist-bumped his buddies, high-fived his 3-year-old daughter and then handed her the prize. Big mistake. Little Emily threw the ball over the railing. Stunned by his toddler's toss Tuesday night, all Pop could do was hug her. "I didn't want her to think she did anything wrong," Monforto said on WIP-AM radio Wednesday. Philly crowds are known for being a tough bunch, but everyone at Citizens Bank Park cheered—first his catch, then his cuddle. "This was the true reflection of what Philly fans are like," said Bonnie Clark, the team's vice president of communications.



AP

Boston Red Sox' Alex Gonzalez, center, celebrates with teammates Dustin Pedroia, right, and others after hitting a walkoff single to drive in the winning run for a 9-8 victory against the Los Angeles Angels in the ninth inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2009.

Pitcher Zach Miner and three other relievers kept the Royals scoreless over the final five innings to help the Tigers stay 4-1/2 games ahead of Minnesota in the AL Central. Detroit is chasing its first division title since 1987.

Twins 7, Indians 3

In Minneapolis, Michael Cuddyer homered, doubled and drove in three runs for Minnesota which completed a three-game sweep of Cleveland.

Joe Mauer singled twice, raising his major league-leading batting average to .374, and drove in two runs as the Twins won their fourth straight.

Matt LaPorta homered and had three RBIs for Cleveland, which has lost four straight.

Orioles 4, Rays 2

In Baltimore, rookie Matt Wieters hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth for Baltimore, beating Tampa Bay.

The Rays went up 2-1 in the top half when Ben Zobrist hit a 3-2 pitch from Jim Johnson over the center-field wall. It was the fifth blown save for Johnson.

But in the bottom half, Luke Scott drew a leadoff walk from Russ Springer and Wieters hit his seventh homer.

Dodgers 3, Pirates 1

In Los Angeles, Matt Kemp's go-ahead, two-run homer in the sixth inning and Ronnie Belliard's solo shot helped the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the last-place Pittsburgh Pirates and complete a three-game sweep.

The NL West-leading Dodgers are 29 games above mediocrity for the first time since the end of the 1985 season.

Kemp smacked Kevin Hart (1-6) into the right-field pavilion for his 24th homer, driving in Belliard and giving the Dodgers a 2-1 lead en route to their 38th comeback win of the season. Kemp extended his career highs for homers and RBIs (94).

Hiroki Kuroda (7-6) gave up one run and six hits for the win.

Marlins 5, Cardinals 2

At St. Louis, Josh Johnson struck out nine in six effective innings to help Florida win and stay in the playoff race.

Cody Ross had three hits and drove in two runs for Florida, which has won 10 of 14. Ross extended his hitting streak to 11 games, the longest current streak in the NL.

Johnson (15-4) gave up one run and nine hits. He's tied for third in the NL in wins.

Central-leading St. Louis fell to 1-5 on its nine-game homestand and lost back-to-back series for the first time since June 22-28. Joel Pineiro (14-11) took the loss.

Padres 6, Diamondbacks 5, 10 innings

At San Diego, Everth Cabrera's RBI single in the bottom of 10th gave San Diego the victory. Cabrera's third hit of the game was a grounder into right off Yusmeiro Petit (3-10).

Luis Durango, making his first career start, opened the 10th with his third infield single, the others on bunts.

San Diego's Adrian Gonzalez, pinch-hitting for his brother Edgar, hit a two-run homer in the ninth off Esmerling Vasquez to tie the score at 5. It was Gonzalez's first career pinch-hit homer.

Justin Upton had a career-high five hits for Arizona and fell a home run short of the cycle.

Phillies 6, Nationals 1

At Philadelphia, Joe Blanton threw six scoreless innings and Jayson Werth hit a grand slam for NL East-leading Philadelphia.

Blanton (10-7) allowed five hits and struck out seven. The Phillies were one out away from recording three consecutive shutouts for the first time in 40 years until Willie Harris singled in a run off Tyler Walker.

Livan Hernandez (8-11) allowed two runs and seven hits in six innings.

Werth hit his third career grand slam and second this year in the seventh off Jason Bergman.

Reds 6, Astros 5

At Cincinnati, Joey Votto scored the go-ahead run on a wild pitch in the seventh inning as Cincinnati overcame Jeff Keppinger's first career multihomer game.

In a game that featured seven solo homers in the first five innings, Votto led off the seventh against Wesley Wright (3-3) with an infield single and went to third on a single by Brandon Phillips. Jeff Fulchino relieved Wright with Chris Coste going in at catcher in a double switch. Fulchino bounced a pitch that Coste couldn't handle, allowing Votto to break a 5-5 tie.

Keppinger had two of Houston's five solo homers—all off Reds starter Justin Lehr—but the Astros lost their fourth straight.

Brewers 9, Cubs 5

At Chicago, Braden Looper pitched five innings for his career-high 13th win and Alcides Escobar went 4 for 5 with three RBIs for Milwaukee.

Looper (13-6), who won 12 games in each of the two previous seasons with St. Louis, allowed five runs and nine hits, including a two-run homer by Aramis Ramirez in the fifth, and walked three.

The Brewers had 13 hits and drove Chicago starter Rich Harden (9-9) out after three innings. Harden gave up five hits, five runs—two earned—and three walks, throwing 71 pitches in his short outing.

Escobar's four hits and three RBIs were career highs.

NBA BRIEFS

Dwyane Wade at mediation over business lawsuits

MIAMI (AP)—Miami Heat star Dwyane Wade attended a mediation session Wednesday aimed at settling lawsuits filed by his former business partners, but no deal was immediately reached. Wade attorney Michael Kreitzer said another meeting would be scheduled to try to work out an agreement involving off-the-court business ventures. Wade's ex-partners claim the NBA star cost them millions of dollars by walking away last year from a chain of sports memorabilia restaurants and charter schools for kids at risk of dropping out. "We are not ready to declare an impasse at this point," Kreitzer said. Wade contends that he had every right to end his involvement in the D. Wade's Place restaurants and the charter schools, now known as Mavericks in Education. He also has sued one of his ex-partners for defamation over e-mails sent to Heat President Pat Riley. On his Twitter account Wednesday, Wade wrote: "A day of handling business." The Heat said in a court filing that Wade, last year's leading NBA scorer and the franchise's cornerstone, could risk injury if he's tied up with legal battles during the NBA season. Training camp opens Sept. 29. The lawsuits seek about $150 million in damages.

Referees reject proposal, still hopeful of deal

NEW YORK (AP)—NBA referees have voted unanimously against the NBA's latest contract proposal, but remain hopeful a deal can be reached in time to avoid a lockout. The contract between the league and its officials expired Sept. 1 and negotiations toward a new deal broke down last week after commissioner David Stern abruptly halted a meeting in New York. The NBA made another proposal Wednesday, and referees association spokesman Lamell McMorris said his side hoped to offer a counterproposal Thursday. All 57 active referees met in Chicago, and McMorris said they planned to continue discussions late into the night. "I think it's a tremendous sign of unity and also willingness to get a deal done, that rather than going to jump on planes they're still in a conference room," McMorris said about midnight EDT, following seven hours of meetings. "None of them are going home." No further sessions between the NBA and the referees were planned after last week's impasse, when McMorris criticized Stern for his behavior. But McMorris said some discussions have been ongoing, and the league's decision to make an offer Wednesday was a "pleasant surprise."

2 teens admit to defacing Bills' McKelvin's lawn

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)—Buffalo Bills cornerback Leodis McKelvin is so far willing to forgive and forget after two male teens admitted to police that they defaced the player's front lawn.

Hamburg police Sgt. Thomas Best said Wednesday night that McKelvin is refusing to press charges against two 16-year-olds, who said they were the ones who spray-painted a message and an obscenity across the grass in front of the player's home shortly after the Bills' season-opening 25-24 loss at New England on Monday night.

Best said it'll be up to the Erie County district's attorney's office to press charges against the two suspects. Best declined to release the names of the two teens because of their age, but noted they both live near McKelvin's home in suburban Buffalo.

The vandalism created headlines across the country, was fodder for numerous sports talk radio programs, and led to several Bills players questioning their privacy and security as they returned to practice to prepare to host Tampa Bay on Sunday.

While McKelvin said early Wednesday afternoon he didn't want anyone arrested for what happened, receiver Terrell Owens had a far more defiant reaction.

"Once we make it to the playoffs, tell them to do his lawn again," Owens said. "You just attribute that to ignorance."

Linebacker Kawika Mitchell had guessed that the vandalism was caused by "a bunch of kids," but still noted how NFL players are concerned about their security after Redskins safety Sean Taylor died of a gunshot wound following a botched burglary attempt in November 2007 at his Miami-area home.

"It's extremely dangerous when someone is going to come to your house and do anything that's going to affect you," Mitchell said.

McKelvin shrugged it off, saying he still considers Bills fans to be the greatest.

"It's just one little incident. I hope it doesn't happen any more," McKelvin said. "I was mad, I was kind of like angry in a way, but I was laughing a little bit for what they put on there. It was just something that isn't appropriate."

He was particularly impressed by a neighbor, who got out his lawn mower and cut the grass in bid to erase what had been painted.

And McKelvin's already looking ahead to playing Sunday.

"Right now it's all about Tampa Bay," he said.

McKelvin has plenty of reason to look forward after being partly blamed for the loss at New England, in which the Bills squandered an 11-point lead in the final 2:06.

After the Patriots scored to cut Buffalo's lead to 24-19, McKelvin was faulted for not taking a knee in the end zone on the ensuing kickoff. Instead, he ran the ball out and had the ball stripped from his hands. The Patriots recovered at the Bills 31 and scored the decisive touchdown three plays later.

"I've just got to do my job. And of course with that, with me handling the ball, I've got to protect it," McKelvin said, noting that he expects a warm reception from Bills fans on Sunday. "Buffalo fans are great. They're real great."

And some of those fans intend to prove it based on the numerous reactions supporting McKelvin posted on several Bills message boards.

Mike Stock, a Bills fan from Syracuse, said the vandalism is not a reflection of the team's fans or of Buffalo—noted as "The City of Good Neighbors."

"It's unimaginable to me that someone would decide that losing a football game was justification to vandalize someone's property," Stock said. "I'm not only angry at the act, I'm angry at the potential message it conveys. ... Let him know we'll be there screaming 'Leodis' on Sunday and that we've got his back."

Harry Kozlowski, a season-ticket holder from New Hampshire, has suggested fans sign a giant card apologizing to McKelvin and deliver it to the Bills.

"The McKelvin incident is unfortunate because it tarnishes all Bills fans," Kozlowski said. "Football fans forget that players are human beings. Ruining a player's lawn is not going to help him play better. ... A show of support would do wonders for a guy who already has the weight of letting his teammates down on his shoulders."

Punter Brian Moorman has spent nine seasons in Buffalo and won't write off Bills fans because of one isolated incident.

"There's always going to be somebody out there that's an idiot," Moorman said. "To do something like that is just, I don't know, it lacks class. And I think Buffalo Bills fans have class."

NFL BRIEFS

Eagles' QB McNabb out of practice with rib injury

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb did not practice Wednesday because of his cracked rib and it is still not known if he will play against New Orleans. "He's making some progress," coach Andy Reid said. "It's too early to say anything right now. We'll just see how he does here over the next couple of days." Kevin Kolb took snaps with the starters Wednesday. Reid again made it clear that Kolb will start against the Saints if McNabb can't play. Jeff Garcia, picked up by the Eagles on Tuesday, would be Kolb's backup. He will be the No. 3 emergency quarterback if McNabb starts. Michael Vick and Garcia will share snaps running the scout team this week.

Proving popular: Favre jerseys move fast; Vick too

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP)—For all of the negative publicity produced by Brett Favre's latest retirement flip-flop, fans have flocked to watch him in action—and buy his memorabilia. Over just a 10-day span following his arrival in Minnesota, Favre's No. 4 Vikings jersey—still a strange sight—was the top seller on the NFL's merchandise Web site for the entire sales period from April 1-Aug. 28. It costs $80. Newness always helps: Jay Cutler ranked second and Michael Vick was fourth during that timeframe. The Favre phenomenon, however, seems like it's just one of a kind. Perhaps the only person surprised to hear about Favre's jersey-selling success was his most prominent Vikings teammate.

NFL fines Jets, Mangini for Favre coverup

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP)—The NFL assessed $125,000 in fines to the New York Jets and former coach Eric Mangini on Wednesday for violating the league's rules on injury reporting with former quarterback Brett Favre last season. The Jets failed to place Favre, now with the Minnesota Vikings, on the injury report during the final month of last season even though he had a torn biceps tendon. The league announced it had fined the Jets $75,000, and Mangini and Jets general manager Mike Tannenbaum $25,000 apiece. Mangini now coaches the Cleveland Browns. "We have been fully cooperative with the league throughout this investigation and respect their decision," the Jets said in a statement. Mangini wants to put the situation behind him. "I have worked with the league on this matter and now consider it closed," he said in a statement. "My focus is on our preparations for the Broncos."

WBO chief labels Pacquiao a rarity

BOXING

MANILA, Philippines—He may be a Puerto Eican, but World Boxing Organization president Francisco Valcarcel can't help being fascinated with Manny Pacquiao.

"We get one fighter like Pacquiao every 50 years," the 59-year-old lawyer told Percy Crawford of Fighthype.com. on Wednesday. "He's not easy to fight and I love Pacquiao. Pacquiao is one of the greatest ever. He can fight, he can beat anybody and he started off as a flyweight and now he's fighting in the welterweight division."

Pacquiao, the pound-for-pound king, is gunning for Puerto Rican Miguel Cotto's WBO 147-pound crown on Nov. 14 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

"That's an endangered species, a fighter like that. You won't see another Pacquiao for 50 years," added Valcarcel, the WBO head since 1996.

Of course, Valcarcel has good things to say about his countryman, too, calling the Pacquiao-Cotto showdown "the best match-up in the last 10 years."

Fact is, Valcarcel thinks the fight, where oddsmakers have installed Pacquiao a 2-1 favorite, is "going to be one of the best fights ever."

"Both of these guys are beasts. It's a fight that's tough to pick a winner because it's an even fight."

Valcarcel also expects a smart, tactical fight from both sides. He envisions Pacquiao, with his perceived edge in speed, trying to hit Cotto and then move away from danger while Cotto, naturally bigger and stronger, applying constant pressure.

Based on the pronouncements of both fighters in their press tour of the megabuck bout dubbed "Firepower," Valcarcel's painted scenario may not be far-fetched.

According to Freddie Roach, Pacquiao's chief trainer, they don't intend to get into a slugging match with Cotto, who's expected to be 10 to 13 pounds heavier than Pacquiao on fight night.

The plan is for Pacquiao to sneak in and then move out, trying to pile up points and win rounds.

Roach, who predicts a victory for his prized ward but no knockout, said Pacquiao will only engage toe-to-toe when pressed.

Meanwhile, Pacquiao threw the first pitch during the Filipino Heritage Night at the Petco Park featuring the Major League baseball game between the San Diego Padres against the Arizona Diamondbacks on Tuesday.

The San Diego stop wrapped up Pacquiao's blitzkrieg tour that traversed New York, Caguas in Puerto Rico, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Pacquiao is expected to arrive in Manila by Friday, wrap up his business and social commitments and then proceed to Baguio City to start his preparations for the 12-round showdown with Cotto.

In a related development, Pacquiao laughed off insinuations made by Floyd Mayweather Sr. that his incredible jump from a 106 to a 147-lb fighter is due to steroids or supplements.

"You know what? I don't even know what a steroid is," Pacquiao told Fanhouse. "I've never done that."

The Filipino ring icon then retorted that it might be Mayweather's camp that is using the prohibited substance.

"Maybe all of them—they're using the steroids, and not me," said Pacquiao. ***(PDI)***

WABOL

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"I can't be with him all the time but I will support him just the same," he promised.

As far as preparing for the Games, Manglona said unlike other triathletes his training involved lifting weights more than running.

"I did a lot of explosive training. I don't really run a lot but I know I have endurance. For this Pacific Games I worked to improve my speed. I want to improve on my time and enhance my cardio level so I can sustain a high heart rate for the whole three hours of the race," he said.

Incidentally, Manglona's goal is to complete the 1.5-km swim, 40-km bike, and 10-km run Olympic-distance triathlon in three hours or less.

"I'm planning to train while waiting for my event, which is not until Sept. 30. I will do some practice rounds to familiarize myself with the course. All in all, it's going to be a good opportunity for me too to know the islands and its culture," he said.

Wabol, for his part, said his preparations for the Mini Games involved improving his short game.

Although, he admitted that he didn't hit the links as much as he liked to, he did take part in almost every tournament held on Saipan the past few months.

"I will study the course when I arrive there and will try to get one practice round under my belt before the actual competition," he said.

Golf will be played at the Rarotonga Golf Course from Sept. 22 to 25 with 11 island nation participating.

Before checking into their flight, Wabol extended his thanks to Refaluwasch Golf Association and its board, Rep. Ray Tebuteb, Island Apparel's Yasu Irinaka, and DFS Galleria's Ben Babauta for helping defray the cost of his trip to Cook Islands.

Manglona, for his part, thanked the Tinian Mayor's Office, King Law Office, and Sens. Jude Hoffschneider and Joseph M. Mendiola for donating funds for his Mini Games stint.

"Last but not the least, I also thank my parents, my No. 1 supporters and fans, and the island of Tinian for all their support and their belief in me as well as the rest of the CNMI," he said.

Joining Wabol and Manglona in Cook Islands is Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael A. White, who will serve as the delegation's chef de mission.

ACTION

From Page 36

two in their 17-21, 21-15, 21-19 victory over Puy Macario and Annette Quiambao.

Hilario and Ta also followed the same route in beating Rodwealth Espana and Elna Curate, 14-21, 21-16, 21-18.

Like the previous two weeks, the busiest division was again the mixed doubles B with a total of eight matches played last weekend.

Daniel Macario and Shirley Kim started the ball rolling with a 24-22, 23-21, 21-19 hard-earned win over Aries Cordero and Cheng Saturno.

They followed that up with another three-setter in their 21-15, 14-21, 21-15 triumph against Andreau Galvez and Angie Ito. Only to succumb to the tandem of Roger Vales and Malou Malasarte, 18-21, 16-21.

Paul Navarro and Cristy Villaflor, meanwhile, scored an impressive 21-15, 21-15 win over Efren Cacdac and Anna Alvarez.

They then scrambled for a come-from-behind victory over Keno San Pablo and Lucelle Lampera, 16-21, 21-19, 21-17.

San Pablo and Lampera rebounded from that loss with two straight wins—a 21-14-21-17 win over Galvez and Ito as well as a 21-18, 21-15 victory over Jojo Savellano and Jaja Samonte.

Noli Santos and Anna Rose Omori, for their part eked out a grinding 21-17, 22-20 win over the favored pair of Jorge Olanda and Marlene Peraja.

Games in the IT&E Singles and Mixed Doubles Badminton Tournament resumes this weekend with a three-day badminton-fest among Saipan top shuttlers.

All mixed doubles divisions will also have a single round robin format. The Top 4 teams in each division will advance to the next round, but format in the semifinals has yet to be decided.

The Top 3 finishers in both the singles and mixed doubles competitions will receive medals and cash prizes.

The singles competition for both the men's and women's divisions, meanwhile, will have a single round robin format with the Top 4 players advancing to the semifinals. The semifinal round will have knock-out format with the No. 1 player facing the No. 4 seed for the first finals seat and the No. 2 and 3 players battling it out for the second championship berth.

Games every Friday and Saturday will run from 6pm to 10pm, while Sunday's matches will be played from 2pm to 6pm.

PXC

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Alvarez said Jesse is in tip-top shape and "will definitely have the edge in stamina."

In another exciting match-up, Trench Tech's Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan will take on Kyle "Boom" Reyes of Underworld Xtreme. Alvarez said that both fighters are young and hungry for a win.

Sablan, 21, has an 18-4 win-loss record, while Reyes, 19, has a clean 4-0 slate and is fast becoming a household name in Guam.

"This will be Gio's toughest match to date," Alvarez said.

Maitai "The Charger" Charley of Marianas Elite will take on Micah Tobias of Spike 22.

"Maitai will be facing an undefeated fighter in Tobias who is 9-0. Maitai wins majority of his matchups over Guam opponents and has a good chance of scoring a huge upset," said Alvarez.

"Kill" Bill Saures of Xtreme, meanwhile, will tangle with J.J. Ambrose of Spike 22.

Saures is fighting with only two weeks notice and will square off against Ambrose, an experienced pro fighter from the U.S. mainland.

Alvarez said Ambrose is a jiu jitsu specialist but Saures vowed to do his best and establish a name for himself.

Leeroy Sablan of Marianas Elite will also try his luck against Rob Washington of Spike 22.

Sablan has a 2-3 record and is a stand-up fighter, while Washington is considered a an all-island wrestling phenomenon despite only three fights under his belt.

"He is 2-1 and has limited stand-up [capabilities]. This will go either way. If Rob takes Leeroy down, he has a good chance, if Leeroy doesn't KO him first," said Alvarez.

"Tabi" Jay Muna of Predators will then face Justin "The Shocker" Cruz of Spike 22 in their rematch.

Cruz won their first fight two years ago by split decision, but Muna is determined to get his revenge and force a rubber match.

Syl "The Deal" Teregeyo of Marianas Elite, meanwhile, pulled out of PXC 18 due to an injury he sustained during training.

Meanwhile, Trench Tech is reminding MMA fans for the Art of War IV: Grappling/Submissions Challenge on Oct. 10 and Trench Warz XI: Redemption—Sablan vs. Urquizu set for Dec 4 at the Saipan World Resort.

For more details on the twin Trench Tech promotions, call Cuki at 483-4MMA.

GRIDIRON

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nessee because it's a CBS game scheduled on the satellite and Marianas Cablevision, whose general manager is a huge college football fan, will air it if it's up there.

Upsets are what makes college football so great but it's hard to see the Vols winning in the Swamp, not after their coach Lame Kitten on his first day on the job accused Urban Meyer of cheating. Tim Tebow didn't like that.

The Gators have now taken the bulletin-board blow-ups off the locker room walls but like we used to ask ourselves when I was growing up, "Why would anyone piss off Superman?"

The track record of teams who have unnecessarily insulted or threatened Meyer and/or Tebow is a story of gridiron smash-up.

Mark Richt's unsportsman-like behavior of having his entire team rush on the field to celebrate after Georgia scored a touchdown in 2007 was met by a 49-10 beatdown in 2008.

Florida States' Geno Hayes said he was going to hurt Tebow. He didn't even make a tackle until the Gators had blown them away.

LSU's Ricky Jean-Francios said he was going to take out Tebow. Instead Ricky was taken out.

Oklahoma's Dominique Franks said Tebow would only be the fourth best quarterback if he played in the Big 12. I guess he meant that Sam Bradford was fifth because Tebow outplayed him in the national championship.

So we should get a chance to see if the Gators' cover the ridiculous spread of 28 points and teach the novice coach a lesson. I was in the Swamp two years ago for the Gators 59-20 romp and can see the same thing happening again except I don't see how the Vols can score 20 points on this defense.

Former Commonwealth Football League player and all-around good guy from Kagman High School, Fa-aea Talalemotu, has a nephew who is a starting lineman for the No. 8 California Golden Bears.

Oh, those crazy, but clever, college kids who are calling the Florida State/BYU game "the Mormons versus the Morons."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	94	53	.639	—
Boston	86	58	.597	6 1/2
Tampa Bay	73	73	.500	20 1/2
Toronto	66	80	.452	27 1/2
Baltimore	60	85	.414	33

Central Division

Detroit	78	67	.538	—
Minnesota	74	72	.507	4 1/2
Chicago	72	74	.493	6 1/2
Cleveland	61	84	.421	17
Kansas City	58	87	.400	20

West Division

Los Angeles	86	59	.593	—
Texas	80	65	.552	6
Seattle	75	71	.514	11 1/2
Oakland	67	78	.462	19

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	84	60	.583	–
Florida	78	68	.534	7
Atlanta	77	68	.531	7 1/2
New York	63	83	.432	22
Washington	50	95	.345	34 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	85	62	.578	–
Chicago	75	69	.521	8 1/2
Milwaukee	70	75	.483	14
Houston	70	76	.479	14 1/2
Cincinnati	67	79	.459	17 1/2
Pittsburgh	55	89	.382	28 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	88	59	.599	–
Colorado	83	64	.565	5
San Francisco	79	67	.541	8 1/2
San Diego	66	81	.449	22
Arizona	64	83	.435	24

Yesterday's Games

Florida 5, St. Louis 2
L.A. Dodgers 3, Pittsburgh 1
San Diego 6, Arizona 5, 10 innings
Philadelphia 6, Washington 1
Cincinnati 6, Houston 5
Atlanta 6, N.Y. Mets 5
Milwaukee 9, Chicago Cubs 5
Colorado 4, San Francisco 3
Minnesota 7, Cleveland 3
Detroit 4, Kansas City 3
Baltimore 4, Tampa Bay 2
N.Y. Yankees 5, Toronto 4
Boston 9, L.A. Angels 8
Oakland 4, Texas 0
Seattle 4, Chicago White Sox 1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

SBA 8-BALL STANDINGS

Angingan Division

Utopia NTT Docomo Hustlers	24	11
Jonny's IT&E	24	11
D'Pirates Huwa	23	12
Round Perfect Spotters	18	17
Jonny's Home Boys	14	21

Obyan Division

USSP Watever	23	12
USSP Fotten Palau	16	19
D' Pirates 8 Ballers	12	23
Wild Bills Shark Attack	12	23
VFW Sentinel	9	26

40 take part in IT&E Aqua Walk

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Over 40 community members had fun under the sun and on the sand while wading in the waters off Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel in last Saturday's 2009 IT&E Aqua Walk, a couple of days before super typhoon Choi-Wan blew into town.

Aside from the usual Marianas Walking Association members and event regulars, the walk also attracted IT&E officials led by Contract Centers Division executive director Rob Harrell and sales and marketing officer Jennifer White-Aguon.

Also in attendance were Rep. Ramon Tebuteb, Shirley's Coffee Shop Susupe supervisor Macoi Aguda, and Harrell's stepfather Bob Grump.

There was no hint of the bad weather that showed up the next couple of days, as the participants of the yearly Aqua Walk completed two loops of the course that was lined up by colorful buoys.

A handful of participants also took on the land course that had them jogging back and forth on the shore of the Susupe beach.

MWA vice president Yoichi Matsumura, who also serves as director of the Marianas Visitors Authority, thanked everyone who participated in the Aqua Walk.

MARK RABAGO
Participants of the 2009 IT&E Aqua Walk pose for a group shot before the event on the beach at the back of the Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel in Susupe.

He said the Aqua Walk is a unique event that should be promoted not only for everyone to appreciate the beauty of Saipan but also for people to reap the health benefits of walking in the water.

Matsumura said that it is his hope that the annual event will become a signature event that will be participated by local walking enthusiasts and tourists as well.

"I hope we can make this event one of our signature events and a good attraction for the Northern Marianas. It is an excellent event and we need to devise plans to get more participants to join it," he said.

After the walk, participants enjoyed a breakfast of egg sandwiches and onigiri with bottled water. IT&E's White-Aguon also raffled off the company's giveaways that was made up of water bottles, keychains, hats, T-shirts, and other trinkets.

For more information about the 2009 IT&E Aqua Walk and MWA's future events, contact Mario Espeleta at 322-8876, Hiroko Tenorio at 322-8781, or Bea Quitugua at 285-1694.

Known formerly as Saipan Walking Association, Inc., MWA was incorporated as a non-profit corporation on July 27, 2001, and was established to promote public health through non-competitive walking.

MARK RABAGO
Marianas Walking Association members pose on the shore after completing the two-loop course.

MARK RABAGO
Marianas Walking Association vice president Yoichi Matsumura, left, was among the first participants to complete the event.

Hustlers draw level with Voyagers via 4-3 win

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Host NTT Docomo Hustlers forged a tie with Jonny's IT&E Voyagers in the Agingan Division of the Saipan Billiards Association Budweiser Open 8-Ball League after scoring a 4-3 win against their archrivals Tuesday night at Utopia's Bar.

Both teams now sport identical 24-11 win-loss record.

Hustlers' Jerry Soriano led his team as he won the special award of the week by running the rack two times against opponent Chester Hamoy.

Joey Lucido also won over Luis Fajardo as the Hustlers took a 2-0 lead.

But Docomo's Rowel Mariano and Robert Sanciangco bowed to R.J. Macaranas and Jojo Talibong as the Voyagers tied the score at 2-2.

Senen Pangilinan put the Hustlers in front anew by toppling Roman Rodriguez in the last singles for a 3-2 count.

Soriano and Mariano lost to Mascarinas and Fajardo in the first doubles before Erwin Gomez and Pangilinan wrapped up the win in the second doubles and final match of the night against Hamoy and Rodriguez.

Tied for third to fourth place overall with 23 wins and 12 losses are USSP Watever and D'Pirates Huwa.

USSP coasted to a huge 6-1 win against fellow Obyan Division foe VFW Sentinel and is now the leading team in the division.

Huwa, which is in third place in Agingan, triumphed with a 4-3 decision against Obyan's D' Pirates 8 Ballers.

Agingan's Round Perfect Spotters climbed to solo fifth place overall and fourth in the division with its 18-17 win-loss card after also posting a shaky 4-3 victory over Obyan's USSP Fotten Palau.

Fotten Palau was relegated to sixth overall but its 16-19 win-loss record is the second highest in its division.

Jonny's Home Boys defeated Wild Bill's Shark Attack, 4-3, but its 14-21 record in seventh spot overall is the lowest among the five teams in the Agingan Division.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of D' Pirates Huwa defeated Round Perfect Spotters, 4-3, last Tuesday night in the Saipan Billiards Association Budweiser Open 8-Ball League. D' Pirates Huwa is made up of Ray Takai, Tero Takai, Ray Basa, Jess Pangelinan, Simeon Kapileo, and Primo Ferrera.

PILCOWA caging to start Oct. 3

Following the success of its inaugural event, the Pilipino Contract Workers Association is inviting interested teams to join the second staging of its basketball league tentatively set to start on Oct. 3.

PILCOWA sports coordinator Fernando "Pando" Muleta said the league would be held again at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

There will be two categories this time—the open division and the masters division.

A meeting of team representatives is still being organized. Interested teams must contact Muleta at 285-9783 to show their interest.

Muleta said entry fees, team format, and other matters would be discussed in this meeting.

Seven teams joined the first league, including eventual champion Diamond Auto Care, which took away the crown via a double overtime win against MIGS.

Sonny Ranola canned a side jumper in the last four seconds of the second overtime to lift Diamond to a 101-99 win.

The other teams that took part in the 2008 season were Aon Insurance, Century Insurance, C&R Distributors, Olivos, and host Pacific Trading Co.

Muleta said they are anticipating more teams to participate this time.

Like in the league's first staging, the 2009 season of the PILCOWA caging will have awards for best muse and best uniform during the opening ceremony. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Fil-Taga September Ace this Sunday

The Fil-Taga Golfers Association will hold its September Ace of the Month Tournament this Sunday, Sept. 20, at Marianas Country Club in Marpi.

According to tournament director Mike Cruz, show time is set at 11am with tee-off time scheduled 30 minutes later at 11:30am.

Slots are available for at least 16 players—Class A and B—with division winners getting $75 apiece. Winners of each group can win as much as $75.

Established in 1993, Fil-Taga's tournaments operate under a computer-controlled handicap system that creates parity among players in the A and B Flights.

A Fil-Taga Ace of the Month champion is crowned monthly. Regular tournaments are scheduled once a month, normally every third Sunday. Green fees are in the $35 to $40 price range for most tournaments.

Its 2008-2009 set of officers are led by president Mike Cruz, vice president Jhun Calma, secretary Manny Po, treasurer Arnaldo Guban, and board of directors Fr. Manny Corcuera , Jhun Dela Cruz, Ted Malaran, Gil Faller, Rey Ferraz, Greg De Torres, Rene Batalliones, Nestor Siruelo, and George Sablan. ***(PR)***

40 take part in IT&E Aqua Walk

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Red Sox notch dramatic win over Angels

Boston's Alex Gonzalez hit a bases-loaded blooper down the left-field line with two outs in the bottom of the ninth to give the Red Sox a 9-8 win over the Los Angeles Angels in the American League on Wednesday.

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Wabol, Manglona leave for Mini Games

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The CNMI's two-man delegation to the 2009 Pacific Mini Games left Saipan yesterday and vowed to represent the Commonwealth the best they could in the quadrennial event to be held from Sept. 21 to Oct. 2 in Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

"I'm prepared for the challenges and I'm looking forward for good results. I cannot say it will be a learning experience for me because I've been to the Pacific Games so many times before," said CNMI national golfer Jess "Mr. Unorthodox" Wabol.

The former Oleai Elementary School principal is a veteran of Pacific Games competition, having represented the CNMI since 1987 and missing only the 1997 and 2007 editions of the event.

Joining Wabol in the trip to Cook Islands is Tinian triathlete Joshua Manglona, who at 21 years old will be one of the Games' youngest athlete.

"It's my first time. My expectations is to come out with good results and to do my best, but at the same time enjoy it and have fun. I also hope to try and represent my home island of Tinian and the rest of the CNMI the best I can," he said.

Asked if playing alone in a team sport like golf and triathlon will be disadvantageous to them, Wabol and Manglona took the challenge in stride and said being the "lone wolf" will only make them more focused.

"There's no cushion. When you are in a team sport you can look at the other guys to help you out. In our case, me and Joshua, we just have to do our best alone," said Wabol.

"It's not that bad being alone all you have to do is do your best. Like what Jess said 'no room for error' and will just have to have each other's back when we get there even though we will not be playing the same sport," said the soft-spoken Manglona.

The Tinian multi-sport athlete added that while he and Wabol will share a room together, they won't be able to attend much less cheer for each other during competition.

See WABOL on Page 34

MARK RABAGO

CNMI national golfer Jess Wabol, left, and CNMI national triathlete Joshua Manglona strike a pose before leaving Saipan at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport yesterday. Also in photo is Wabol's 3-year-old daughter Jessmin.

'The Big Hit' faces 'Big Tobz' in PXC 18

Mesa

Fitial

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Marianas Elite's Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial will start his quest for the heavyweight title when he faces Psycho Gym's Toby "Big Tobz" Mesa in Pacific Xtreme Combat 18: Dead Game 2 tomorrow in Guam.

The winner of the fight will become the top contender in the heavyweight division of PXC and will get a shot against reigning champion Roque Martinez.

Another Saipan bet Fasi "Quick-draw" Jesse of Trench Tech will battle it out with Brian "Shotgun" Howard.

Jesse is undefeated in five mixed martial arts fights, although he will have a tough task against the veteran Howard, who won four of his nine fights inside the octagon cage.

Trench Tech Inc. president Cuki

See PXC on Page 34

Action heats up in badminton doubles

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Aries Cordero and Cheng Saturno, seen here in Week 1 of the IT&E Singles and Mixed Doubles Badminton Tournament, lost their mixed doubles C match against Daniel Macario and Shirley Kim last weekend.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

A total of 11 matches were played in the mixed doubles event of the IT&E Singles and Mixed Doubles Badminton Tournament last weekend at the REM Court in Gualo Rai.

In the lone match in the mixed doubles A, Robert Reyes redeemed himself from back-to-back losses in singles by teaming up with Anna Rose Omori to beat the vaunted pair of Edwin Montoya and Cristy Villaflor, 21-11, 21-17.

In the mixed doubles C, Cris Hilario and Annette Ta dropped the opening set before winning the last

See ACTION on Page 34

Gridiron nibbles

Ah, now that the NFL real season has started, I feel normal again. Sure makes the week more interesting.

The best teams in September are seldom the best teams in January and it's way too early to make Super Bowl predictions which will be forgotten anyway. Every team now looks vulnerable.

It's hard to see Pittsburgh returning if they don't get their running game going. Arizona losing at home to San Francisco was not that surprising, considering they lost seven games last year.

New England didn't beat Buffalo. Buffalo beat Buffalo. But Tom Brady did display that pinpoint accuracy and field generalship in the final minutes that made him a Super Bowl winner more than any other current quarterback.

Likewise, Oakland was more impressive than San Diego for 58 minutes but Phillip Rivers and Darren Sproles made the difference in the end.

The Colts eked out a win over the toothless Jaguars. The Ravens struggled to get past the hapless Chiefs. The Bears took a major blow with the loss of Brian Urlacher for the season. The Packers defense looked good thanks to Jay Cutler consistently throwing the ball to them.

The Vikings, Saints, Cowboys, and Jets were the most impressive teams but their opponents were the Browns, Lions, Bucs, and Texans.

All in all, it should be another exciting season with tons of televised games both pro and college.

USC's freshman QB Nate Barkley sure looked good at Ohio State.

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2

Of course, the Buckeyes always make the Trojans look good.

This Sunday we should get No. 1 Florida versus unranked Ten-

See GRIDIRON on Page 34